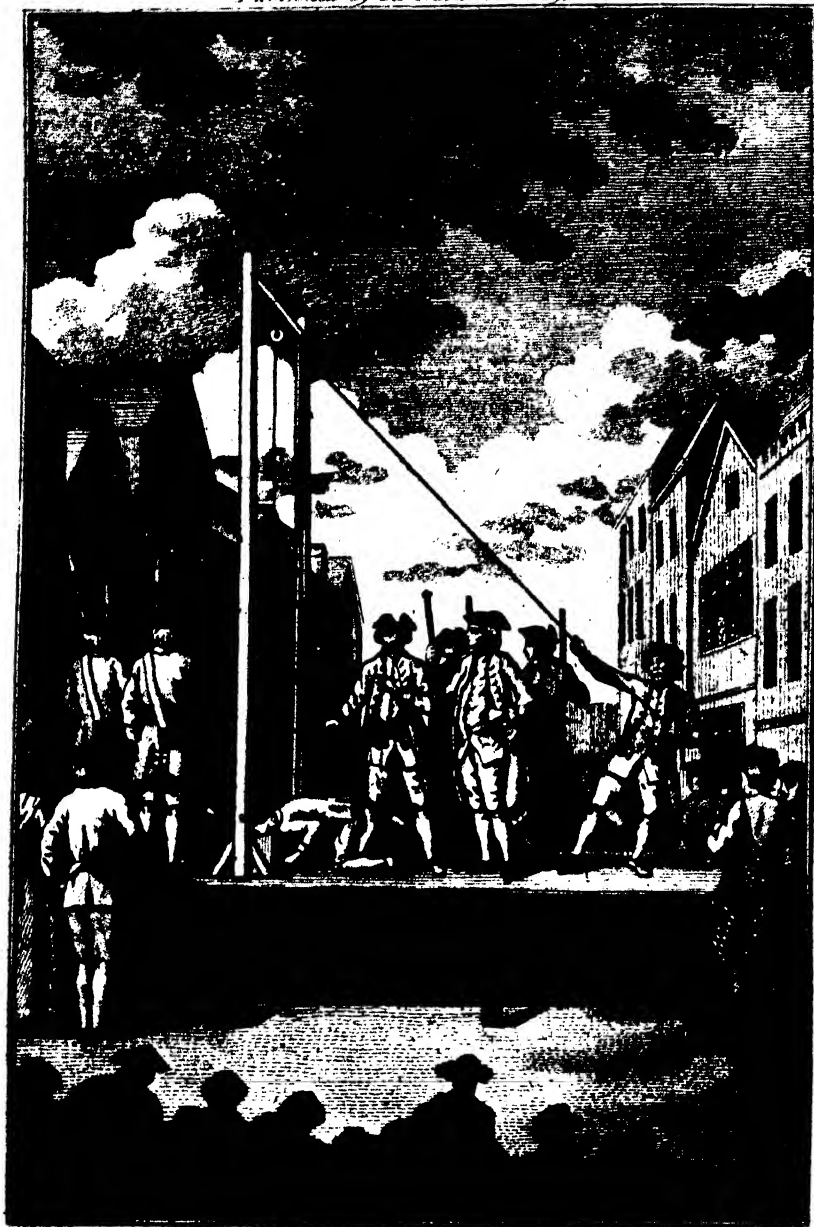


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Entered

**THE COMPLETE NEWGATE
CALENDAR**



Engraving
Execution of John Hamilton Esq. by the Machine
called THE MAIDEN, at Edinburgh?
Fraser and Neave

THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

BEING

CAPTAIN CHARLES JOHNSON'S *General History of the Lives and Adventures of the Most Famous Highwaymen, Murderers, Street-Robbers and Account of the Voyages and Plunders of the Most Notorious Pyrates*, 1734; CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SMITH'S *Compleat History of the Lives and Robberies of the Most Notorious Highwaymen, Foot-Pads, Shop-Lifts and Cheats*, 1719; *The Tyburn Chronicle*, 1768; *The Malefactors' Register*, 1796; GEORGE BORROW'S *Celebrated Trials*, 1825; *The Newgate Calendar*, by ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN, 1826; CAMDEN PELHAM'S *Chronicles of Crime*, 1841; etc.

COLLATED AND EDITED WITH SOME APPENDICES

BY

G. T. CROOK

VOLUME TWO

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PREFACE TO VOLUME II

OWING to the untimely and deeply regrettable death of my friend Mr John L. Rayner, who was seized with a painful malady while engaged in compiling the second volume of *The Complete Newgate Calendar*, the Navarre Society asked me to undertake the completion of the work which he had so ably and conscientiously begun. I accepted the task with some diffidence because I thought that temperamentally I was more fitted for continuing my studies of police procedure and the ways of modern criminals in the strange and busy world that lies outside the ken of most of us rather than in diligently delving in studious quietude into chronicles of crimes of centuries ago. Now that the work is finished I am not at all sorry, apart from the regret one feels at the loss of an old friend and colleague, that I was given this opportunity of comparing the old with the new. I have relied on the same authorities that were at Mr Rayner's disposal, and in selecting the cases for inclusion in this work I have endeavoured to make them as diversified as possible in order to show the infinite variety of methods employed in the wide world of crime.

One fact that must impress itself on the reader of these volumes is that in the old days crime was of a more vicious and brutal character than it is at the present day, and so were the punishments inflicted. Men and women and children were hanged for offences which in these days would be expiated by small fines or short terms of imprisonment. Brutality breeds brutality. Our present more humanitarian methods of dealing with offenders are reflected in the comforting decrease in all forms of serious crime although there is a steady and continued increase in the population. Of course there are other contributory causes, such as the improved social conditions of the people and the provision of more opportunities for sport and amusements and popular

PREFACE

educational attractions, in which must be included picture palaces and the introduction of wireless into millions of homes—all of which go a long way toward making people happy and contented and honest. The encouragement given to various sports by employers of labour in all our great industrial centres is probably one of the surest safeguards against lawlessness of all descriptions. England has ever been a great sporting nation, and workers who are encouraged to enjoy themselves in all manner of field sports have their minds diverted from those little troubles that afflict all of us but if brooded upon are apt to look big and ugly and so lead to discontent and revolt against law and order. Has anyone ever heard of an ardent sportsman being a hardened criminal? How many Bolsheviks and Communists are there in this country who take any interest whatever in sport? How many have played cricket or football? A man cannot be a criminal if he plays the game. During the 1925 army manœuvres I spent part of my holiday among the troops and motored all over Wiltshire and Hampshire. A famous General told me of the wonderful spirit of good-fellowship and loyalty that existed among all ranks, and he related a story of a young soldier who, soon after he joined the army, declared that, like his father, he was a Communist, and he used to preach Communism to the men. They listened good-humouredly to him and told him that Lenin and Trotsky were the saviours of their country and all that sort of thing, but the real point was, would Hobbs beat Grace's record? Apparently the recruit soon saw the error of his ways, because some time afterwards the General asked the Colonel how the young Bolshie was getting on. "Oh, he is a jolly good chap," said the Colonel, "and a damned fine soldier. He is captain of the cricket team now."

There is another reason for the decrease in crime, and that is that within the last fifty years the means of preventing and detecting it have been placed on a properly organised basis by the establishment of a highly skilled detective force in every town in the country. The organisation is distinctly good, but could be improved in many ways which need not

PREFACE

be mentioned here. To my mind the most romantic aspect of modern crime investigation is the introduction of the finger-print system of identification. From time immemorial the natives of the Far East, especially China, have signed documents with an inken impression of the right hand, and in 1858 the late Sir William Herschel, who was in the Indian Civil Service, discovered that finger-prints could be used for the purpose of personal identification. He introduced the system in the district of Hooghly, Bengal, with the object of establishing identity and preventing false personation. Later Sir Francis Galton, a native of Birmingham and a distinguished traveller and scientist, proved that the minutest details of the pattern on one's fingers persisted through life and were effaceable only when decomposition after death set in. In 1901 the present finger-print system for identifying criminals was introduced into this country, and it was made possible by the simple method of classification invented by Sir Edward Henry, late Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. Since that time hundreds of thousands of identifications of criminals have been effected at the Central Finger-Print Bureau, New Scotland Yard, and this same system has been introduced into every police force in the civilised world. Finger-prints are infallible. No two sets are alike, and they never change from birth to death. In this connection I have a photograph of two sets of the finger impressions of Sir William Herschel. Sir William was born at Slough, in 1833, and when he was twenty-six years old he took an impression of his own fingers. Fifty-four years later he took a repeat print of his fingers, and the photograph of both shows that they are absolutely identical in their characteristics.

Wireless is certainly destined to figure prominently as an aid in the prevention and detection of crime. Already there is a wireless installation at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police, and police vans have been equipped with wireless receiving and sending apparatus, but the fullest use has not yet been made of this powerful auxiliary. In time no doubt there will be infinitely greater developments, and

PREFACE

it would not be surprising if within the next year or two detectives are provided with portable wireless apparatus with which they will be able to communicate with headquarters.

Just one word for criminals and those who think of embarking on a criminal career. Honest work pays better than crime. There is no money in crime.

G. T. CROOK.

DULWICH,
1926.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
JOHN CHISLIE OF DALRY	1
Hanged 3rd of April, 1689, for the murder of the Right Hon. Sir George Lockhart, of Carnwath, Lord President of the Court of Session, after being tortured under a special Act.	
WILLIAM BEW	3
Who practised the art of flattery on the highway. Executed 17th of April, 1689.	
PATRICK O'BRYAN	4
Hanged once for highway robbery, but lived to rob and murder the man for whom he had been executed. Finally hanged 30th of April, 1689.	
THOMAS RUMBOLD	8
Who, if all the stories about him be true, was a very notable cheat. Executed in 1689.	
WILLIAM DAVIS, THE GOLDEN FARMER	28
Who was farmer and highwayman for forty-two years without his neighbours suspecting. Executed 20th of December, 1689.	
JACK BIRD	34
A highwayman who boxed an earl's chaplain for twenty guineas. Executed 12th of March, 1690.	
OLD MOBB	38
A highwayman who took to cheating the citizens of London. Executed 30th of May, 1690.	
TOM KELSEY	53
An audacious young thief who robbed the tent of King William in Flanders and stabbed a Newgate turnkey. Executed 13th of June, 1690.	
SIR JOHN JOHNSTON	57
Executed at Tyburn, 23rd of December, 1690, for assisting to steal an heiress.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
JACK WITHRINGTON	59
One of five brothers, all of whom were hanged. He earned fame for his courage, challenged the captain of his regiment; turned gamester, thief and highwayman. Executed 1st of April, 1691.	
JACOB HALSEY	63
The Quaker highwayman, who after being fooled by a "spirit" led a life of crime, and was executed at Maidstone in April, 1691.	
WILL MACQUEER	67
Who stole the Lord Chancellor's mace and delighted in robbing army officers on the highway. Executed at Tyburn, 1st of May, 1691.	
TOM COX	70
A handsome highwayman who robbed the King's jester and even held up men of his own trade. Executed 3rd of June, 1691.	
JACK COLLET <i>ALIAS</i> COLE	72
Highwayman, who robbed in the habit of a bishop. Executed at Tyburn, 5th of July, 1691, for sacrilegious burglary.	
TOM WATERS	73
Highwayman, who held up gipsies, robbed a vice-admiral, and was executed on 17th of July, 1691.	
MOLL JONES	75
Who became a shoplifter for love of her husband. Executed at Tyburn 18th of December, 1691.	
TOM TAYLOR	77
Who, getting literally hooked as a pickpocket, turned house-breaker. Executed 18th of December, 1691, for using arson as a means to theft.	
HENRY HARRISON, GENT.	79
Sentenced to death 6th of April, 1692, for strangling Dr Clenche in a coach.	
JOCELIN HARWOOD	82
Highwayman, who committed such barbarous murders that his associates gave him up to justice. Executed in 1692.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
SIMON FLETCHER	84
A most expert pickpocket, who captained the thieves of London. Executed in 1692.	
MADAM MARY BUTLER	85
Mistress of the Duke of Buckingham, fined five hundred pounds for forging a bond for forty thousand pounds, and died in Newgate Prison in 1692.	
WILLIAM JONES (ALIAS GOODWIN) AND JOHN BARBER	87
Two highwaymen caught at the same robbery and executed together on 26th of July, 1693.	
JAMES LEONARD	89
Eighteen-year-old highwayman, who tried to cut the fatal rope, and died with a laugh in 1693.	
EDWARD HINTON	90
Highwayman, who was such a danger to society that he was condemned and executed on the same day, in 1694.	
TOM AUSTIN	93
Highwayman, guilty of unparalleled butchery. He murdered his aunt, wife and seven children. Executed in August, 1694.	
JAMES WHITNEY	95
Notorious highwayman, who believed in dressing well. Executed at Smithfield, 19th of December, 1694.	
GEORGE SEAGER	98
A rogue of a soldier, who deserted from Johnny Gibson's Regiment and turned burglar. Executed 27th of January, 1697.	
WILLIAM JOYCE	100
A chawbacon who, coming to London, was fleeced, so took to fleecing others. Executed in July, 1696.	
DR FRANCIS SALISBURY AND THOMAS HOUGHTON .	103
Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of November, 1697, for forging a sixpenny stamp.	
WILL HOLLYDAY	105
Captain of the ragged regiment of the Black Guards, which commission he threw up to take to the highway. Executed 22nd of December, 1697.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
JOHN SHORTER	107
Highwayman, who conspired a revolt in Newgate and saw the ghost of another malefactor there. Executed 22nd of December, 1697.	
SPENCER COWPER, ESQ.; JOHN MARSON, ELLIS STEVENS AND WILLIAM ROGERS, GENTS. .	108
Tried for murder at Hertford Assizes and acquitted, 16th of July, 1699.	
TOM ROWLAND	113
Who worked the highway in the disguise of a woman. Executed 24th of October, 1699.	
JOHN BELLINGHAM	114
Son of a justice, who took to the highway, and was executed 27th of October, 1699, for forgery.	
WILLIAM MORELL	117
A "Cavalier" doctor and fraudulent impersonator, who continued his cheats even after his death in 1700.	
JOHN LARKIN	124
Who committed so many forgeries and cheats that he had not time to confess them all before he died, on 19th of April, 1700.	
MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN BERGHEN AND DROMELIUS, THEIR SERVANT, PUBLICANS .	127
Executed 10th of July, 1700, for the murder of their guest, Mr Oliver Norris.	
JOHN HOLLIDAY OR SIMPSON	129
Housebreaker and highwayman, who robbed a king and a church, and was hanged at Tyburn in 1700.	
GEORGE GRIFFITHS	131
Who courted his master's daughter and then robbed him. Hanged at Tyburn on 1st of August, 1700.	
THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER, M.A.	134
Executed on 22nd of August, 1700, near Edinburgh, for the diabolical murder out of revenge of the two children of Mr Gordon.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
JOHN COWLAND, GENTLEMAN	137
Who suffered death on 20th of December, 1700, for stabbing Sir Andrew Slanning, Baronet, near Drury Lane Theatre.	
CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD	139
Known as the "Wizard of the Seas," who suffered for piracy, at Execution Dock, 23rd of May, 1701.	
HERMAN STRODTMAN	143
Executed at Tyburn, 18th of June, 1701, for the murder of Peter Wolter, his fellow-apprentice.	
MARY CHANNEL	148
Famous for her wit and beauty, compelled to marry a man she detested, poisoned him, and was executed in April, 1703.	
TIM BUCKLEY	152
Highwayman who fell after a hot battle, and was hanged in 1701.	
TOM JONES	155
Highwayman, executed at Launceston, 25th of April, 1702, for robbing a farmer's wife.	
DICK BAUF.	157
Who executed his own parents, and, arriving by various grades of thefts at highway robbery, was executed at Dublin, 15th of May, 1702.	
ALEXANDER BALFOUR	161
A man of noble family, who was convicted for the murder of Mr Syme, escaped from prison, and lived fifty years after the day fixed for his execution by the "Maiden" or guillotine.	
JACK WITHERS	163
A sacrilegious villain who murdered a footman and was executed on the 16th of April, 1703.	
JOHN PETER DRAMATTI	166
Executed at Tyburn, on 21st of July, 1703, for the murder of his wife, who said she was allied to the French Royal Family.	
THOMAS COOK	168
Murdered a constable during a riot in Mayfair, and was executed on 11th of August, 1703.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
MOLL RABY	169
Who robbed many houses, and was hanged at Tyburn on 3rd of November, 1703.	
MOLL HAWKINS	171
A "question lay" thief, whose end was at Tyburn, on 22nd of December, 1703.	
HARVEY HUTCHINS	172
Apprenticed as a thief and became an expert housebreaker. Executed at Tyburn in 1704.	
TOM SHARP	175
Resourceful thief, coiner and trickster. Executed in Long Acre on 22nd September, 1704.	
JOHN SMITH	179
Who proved that a peruke-maker does not make a good highwayman, for his career lasted only a week. Executed 20th of December, 1704.	
JOHN SMITH	181
Convicted of robbery, reprieved while actually hanging upon the scaffold, 24th of December, 1705, and afterwards had two other escapes from death.	
ARTHUR CHAMBERS	184
A master of thieves' slang, who was full of artful tricks, which, however, did not save him from the gallows at Tyburn, where he found himself in 1706.	
JACK GOODWIN ALIAS PLUMP	191
A young but expert thief, who was executed at Tyburn in 1706 for burglary.	
WILLIAM ELBY OTHERWISE DUNN	193
An armed criminal, who was hanged for burglary and murder at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1707.	
JOHN HERMAN BRIAN	194
Executed for robbing and burning the house of Peter Persode, Esq., St James's Street, Westminster, in October, 1707.	
JACK HALL	196
Who, with two associates named Bunce and Low, committed many robberies, and was executed at Tyburn in 1707.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
DICK LOW	199
Who started thieving at the age of eleven. Executed at Tyburn in 1707, when twenty-five years old.	
JACK OVET	202
An amorous highwayman, who was executed at Leicester in May, 1708.	
ANNE HARRIS	205
Although only twenty when she was executed at Tyburn, on 13th of July, 1708, she was a notorious shoplifter, and her two husbands had already suffered the death penalty.	
MADAM CHURCHILL	206
Who with three men committed a murder, and was executed at Tyburn on 17th of December, 1708.	
CAPTAIN EVAN EVANS	208
Clerk to Sir Edmund Andrews, in Guernsey, and later highwayman in England. Executed in 1708.	
DICK HUGHES	211
A robber whose thoughtful wife bought the rope to hang him. Executed at Tyburn in June, 1709.	
GRACE TRIPP	213
Convicted of murder on evidence of the actual perpetrator of the crime, and executed at the age of nineteen at Tyburn, 27th of March, 1710.	
JACK ADDISON	214
Committed fifty-six highway robberies, and was executed at Tyburn in March, 1711.	
RICHARD THORNHILL, ESQ.	216
Convicted of manslaughter on 18th of May, 1711, for killing Sir Cholmondeley Deering in a duel.	
TOM GERRARD	218
Taught a dog to pick pockets, and was executed for house-breaking at Tyburn in August, 1711.	
WILL MAW	221
Having committed a robbery, Maw ordered his wife to organise a mock funeral, so that people should think he was dead. He was executed at Tyburn in October, 1711.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
DAVY MORGAN	222
Executed at Presteigne in April, 1712, for murdering Edward Williams.	
COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON	224
Convicted of manslaughter, 11th of September, 1712, as second in a duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mahon.	
JACK BLEWIT	226
Was taken into slavery by the blacks on Pirates' Island. After gaining his liberty and returning to England he became a highwayman. Executed in 1713 for the murder of a farmer's daughter.	
TOM GRAY	230
Highwayman who set fire to a prison. Executed at Tyburn in March, 1713.	
NED BONNET	233
Took to the highway because he was ruined by a fire. Executed at Cambridge Castle in March, 1713.	
DICK ADAMS	235
Once pretended to be the Bishop of London's nephew in order to escape from a man he had robbed. Executed at Tyburn,	
NED WICKS	240
Highway robber, executed at Warwick Jail in 1713 for robbery.	
JACK SHRIMPTON	242
Convicted for murder and highway robberies. Executed at St Michael's Hill, in September, 1713.	
WILL LOWTHER	245
Executed on Clerkenwell Green for the murder of Edward Perry, December, 1713.	
RODERICK AUDREY	246
With the assistance of a sparrow he committed many robberies, and was executed at Tyburn in 1714 at the age of sixteen.	
MACCARTNEY	249
Hanged at Gloucester Jail in April, 1714, for the murder of one Mr Beachere.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
WILL OGDEN AND TOM REYNOLDS	251
Housebreakers and highwaymen. Executed at Kingston-upon-Thames in April, 1714.	
WILLIAM JOHNSON AND JANE HOUSDEN	254
Executed in September, 1714, for the murder of a turnkey in the Court at the Old Bailey.	
WILL CHANCE	255
Robbed his uncle by forgery, and then turned footpad. Was executed at Tyburn in April, 1715.	
ZACHARY CLARE	257
Highwayman, who was captured after a fight, and executed with James Lawrence in August, 1715, at Warwick Jail.	
JOHN HAMILTON, ESQ.	260
Tried in Scotland for murder, and beheaded by the Maiden, 30th of June, 1716.	
JAMES QUIN, ESQ.	262
The celebrated tragedian, tried for murder at the Old Bailey in 1717, and convicted of manslaughter.	
THE MARQUIS DE PALEOTTI	265
An Italian nobleman, executed at Tyburn for the murder of his servant, 17th of March, 1718.	
JOHN PRICE, COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH	265
A rogue and liar, who was not believed when he spoke the truth. He held the office of common hangman, and was himself hanged in Bunhill Fields in May, 1718, for murdering a woman.	
JAMES FILEWOOD ALIAS VILET	270
Convicted of picking pockets, and sentenced to death. Executed at Tyburn in October, 1718.	
LIEUTENANT EDWARD BIRD	272
Took a pinch of snuff just before his execution at Tyburn, on 23rd of February, 1719, for murdering a waiter.	
NICHOLAS HORNER	273
A minister's son who turned highwayman, and was executed 3rd of April, 1719.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
BARBARA SPENCER	279
Executed at Tyburn on the 5th of July, 1721, for coining. She was probably the first woman to suffer the death penalty for what was regarded as treason.	
WILLIAM SHAW	280
Executed in 1721 for "murdering" his daughter, who, it was afterwards proved, committed suicide	
NATHANIEL HAWES	283
Highwayman, who underwent torture for the sake of his honour. Executed at Tyburn, 21st of December, 1721.	
ARUNDEL COOKE, ESQ., AND JOHN WOODBURN .	286
The first who suffered death under the Coventry Act. Executed at Bury St Edmunds, 5th of April, 1722.	
JOHN HARTLEY AND THOMAS REEVES	289
Footpads, who were executed at Tyburn on the 4th of May, 1722, after one had, by a ruse, petitioned the King.	
JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON	290
Highwaymen and mail robbers. Executed at Tyburn on the 21st of May, 1722.	
WILLIAM SPIGGOT AND THOMAS PHILLIPS	294
Who suffered the torture for refusing to plead. Executed at Tyburn, 8th of February, 1723, for robbery.	
JACOB SAUNDERS	296
Who murdered a farmer at Caversham, and was arrested at church. Executed in March, 1723.	
WILLIAM BURK	300
After an adventurous seafaring life as a boy he became a robber, and was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723.	
WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH	303
Soldier, who killed a civilian with his musket in St James's Park. Executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1723.	
PHILIP ROCHE	304
Executed on 5th of August, 1723, for many murders on the high seas and piracy.	

CONTENTS

	PAGE
RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT, ROBERT KING-SHELL, HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK AND JAMES ANSELL	306
The "Waltham Blacks," who were executed at Tyburn, 4th of December, 1723, for murder and deer-stealing.	
JOHN STANLEY	308
An insolent puppy who presumed on his swordsmanship. Executed at Tyburn, 23rd of December, 1723, for murdering his mistress.	
STEPHEN GARDENER	311
Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of February, 1724, for house-breaking, after being warned that the bellman would say his verses over him.	
JOSEPH BLAKE <i>ALIAS</i> BLUESKIN	314
Made an unsuccessful attempt to kill Jonathan Wild by cutting his throat. Executed in November, 1724, at Newgate.	
INDEX	326

LIST OF PLATES

Execution by "The Maiden"	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	To face page
Murder of Mr Spurling, turnkey at the Old Bailey	254
Jack Ketch arrested	266
Hawkins and Simpson robbing the mail	290

APPENDICES

No.	Page
1. The Captain of Thieves	319
2. The Maiden : Origin of the Guillotine	320
3. Origin of the Gibbet in England	322
4. The Newgate Bellman	325

THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

JOHN CHISLIE OF DALRY

*Hanged 3rd of April, 1689, for the Murder of the Right Hon.
Sir George Lockhart, of Carnwath, Lord President
of the Court of Session, after being tortured
under a Special Act*

JOHN CHISLIE of Dalry was brought before the Lord Provost on the 1st of April, 1689, to be examined concerning the murder of Sir George Lockhart, committed on the day preceding. Sir John Lockhart of Castlehill, brother, and Cromwell Lockhart of Lee, nephew, of the deceased, appeared in court; and in their own name, and in that of the children of the deceased, gave an Act of the meeting of Estates of Parliament, passed that day, of the following purport:—That the Estates having considered the supplication of the friends of the deceased Sir George Lockhart, for granting warrant to the magistrates of Edinburgh to torture John Chislíe of Dalry, perpetrator of the murder, and William Calderwood, writer in Edinburgh, an accomplice; therefore, in respect of the notoriety of the murder, and of the extraordinary circumstances attending it, the Estates appoint and authorise the Provost, and two of the bailies of Edinburgh, and likewise the Earl of Errol, Lord High Constable, and his deputies, not only to judge of the murder, but to proceed to torture¹ Chislíe, to discover if he had any accomplices in the crime. The Estates at the

¹ By the Act and declaration which the Estates of Parliament passed, just ten days after this trial, declaring King James to have *forfaulted* the crown, by illegal assumption and exercise of power, they declared, “That the use of torture, without evidence, and in ordinary crimes, is contrary to law.”—Act of Estates, 11th of April, 1684.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

same time declare that this extraordinary case shall be no precedent to warrant torture in time coming, nor argument to ratify it as to the time past.

The prisoner was then put to the torture, and declared that he was not advised to the assassination of Sir George Lockhart by any person whatever. That when at London he told James Stewart, advocate, that if he got no satisfaction from the President, he would assassinate him; and told the same to a person there of the name of Callender, and to Mr William Chislie, his uncle. He confessed that he charged his pistol on Sunday morning, and went to the new kirk, and having seen the President coming from the church, he went to the close where the President lodged, followed him, and when just behind his back shot him. That he was satisfied when he heard of the President's being dead; and on hearing it he said he was not used to doing things by halves. He also confessed that when at London he walked up and down Pall Mall with a pistol beneath his coat, lying in wait for the President.

The prisoner judicially confessed the crime libelled, and declared that he committed the murder because he thought the deceased had given an unjust sentence against him. Being asked if it was not a sentence pronounced in favour of his wife and children for their aliment, he declared he would not answer to that point, nor give any account thereof.

Among other witnesses, Mr William Chislie, Writer to the Signet, deposed that he had not seen the prisoner since April, 1688, who then expressed his resentment against Sir George Lockhart, threatening to assassinate him for having decreed an aliment of seventeen hundred merks¹ yearly to the prisoner's wife and ten children. The witness told the President of it, but he despised the threat.

The jury all in one voice, by the mouth of Sir John Foulis of Ravelston, their chancellor (*i.e.* foreman), found, by the prisoner's judicial confession, that he was guilty of the murder of Sir George Lockhart, etc.; and by the deposition of witnesses, that he was guilty of "murder, out

¹ About £93 sterling.

WILLIAM BEW .

of forethought felony." The verdict was subscribed by the whole jury.

The Lord Provost and bailies of Edinburgh sentenced the prisoner as follows:—

"That he be carried on a hurdle from the Tolbooth of Edinburgh to the Market Cross on Wednesday, the 3rd of April, inst.; and there, between the hours of two and four of the afternoon, to have his right hand cut off alive, and then to be hanged upon a gibbet, with the pistol about his neck with which he committed the murder. His body to be hung in chains between Leith and Edinburgh; his right hand fixed on the West Port; and his movable goods to be confiscated."

WILLIAM BEW

Who practised the Art of Flattery on the Highway.

Executed 17th of April, 1689

WE have little more to say of this fellow than that he was the brother of Captain Bew, the notorious highwayman who was killed some years ago at Knightsbridge by one Figg and some thief-takers, and that he was himself as great an offender in that way as his said brother for most of his time; only his reign was shorter than that of some others, he being apprehended at Brainford before he had pursued the course many years, brought from thence to Newgate, and at the next execution tucked up at Tyburn. This fatal day to him was Wednesday, the 17th of April, in the year 1689.

The following story, which Bew himself used to tell, is of an adventure of Bew with a young lady, whom he overtook on the road, with her footman behind her. He made bold to keep them company a pretty way, talking all along of the lady's extraordinary beauty, and carrying his compliments to her to an unreasonable height. Madam was not at all displeased with what he said, for she looked upon herself to be every bit as handsome as he made her.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

However, she seemed to contradict all he told her, and professed with a mighty formal air that she had none of the perfections he mentioned, and was therefore highly obliged to him for his good opinion of a woman who deserved it so little. They went on in this manner, Bew still protesting that she was the most agreeable lady he ever saw, and she declaring that he was the most complaisant gentleman she ever met with. This was the discourse till they came to a convenient place, when Bew took an opportunity to knock the footman off his horse; and then addressing himself to the lady, "Madam," says he, "I have been a great while disputing with you about the beauty of your person; but you insist so strongly on my being mistaken, that I cannot in good manners contradict you any longer. However, I am not satisfied yet that you have nothing handsome about you, and therefore I must beg leave to examine your pocket, and see what charms are contained there." Having delivered his speech he made no more ceremony, but thrust his hand into her pocket and pulled out a purse with fifty guineas in it. "These are the charms I mean," says he; and away he rode, leaving her to meditate a little upon the nature of flattery, which commonly picks the pocket of the person it is most busy about.

PATRICK O'BRYAN

Hanged once for Highway Robbery, but lived to rob and murder the Man for whom he had been executed.

Finally hanged 30th of April, 1689

THE parents of Patrick O'Bryan were very poor; they lived at Loughrea, a market-town in the county of Galway and province of Connaught in Ireland. Patrick came over into England in the reign of King Charles II., and listed himself into his Majesty's Coldstream Regiment of Guards, so called from their being first raised at a place in Scotland which bears that name. But the small allowance of a private sentinel was far too little for him. The first thing

PATRICK O'BRYAN

he did was to run into debt at all the public-houses and shops that would trust him ; and when his credit would maintain him no longer, he had recourse to borrowing of all he knew, being pretty well furnished with the common defence of his countrymen—a front that would brazen out anything, and even laugh at the persons whom he had imposed on to their very faces. By such means as these he subsisted for some time.

At last, when he found fraud would no longer support him, he went out upon the footpad. Dr Clewer, the parson of Croydon, was one of those whom he stopped. This man had in his youth been tried at the Old Bailey, and burnt in the hand, for stealing a silver cup. Patrick knew him very well, and greeted him upon their lucky meeting ; telling him that he could not refuse lending a little assistance to one of his old profession. The doctor assured him that he had not made a word if he had had any money about him, but he had not so much as a single farthing. "Then," says Patrick, "I must have your gown, sir." "If you can win it," quoth the doctor, "so you shall ; but let me have the chance of a game at cards." To this O'Bryan consented, and the reverend gentleman pulled out a pack of the devil's books ; with which they fairly played at all-fours, to decide who should have the black robe. Patrick had the fortune to win, and the other went home very contentedly, as he had lost his divinity in such an equitable manner.

There was in Patrick's time a famous posture master in Pall Mall ; his name was Clark. Our adventurer met him one day on Primrose Hill, and saluted him with "Stand and deliver." But he was mightily disappointed, for the nimble harlequin jumped over his head, and instead of reviving his heart with a few guineas, made it sink into his breeches for fear, he imagining the devil was come to be merry with him before his time, for no human creature, he thought, could do the like. This belief was a little mortification to him at first ; but he soon saw the truth of the story in the public prints, where Mr Clark's friends took care to put it, and then our Teague's qualm of conscience was changed

NEWGATE CALENDAR

into a vow of revenge if ever he met with his tumblership again ; which, however, he never did.

O'Bryan at last entirely deserted from his regiment, and got a horse, on which he robbed on the highway a long time. One day in particular he met Nell Gwyn in her coach on the road to Winchester, and addressed himself to her in the following manner :—" Madam, I am a gentleman, and, as you may see, a very able one. I have done a great many signal services to the fair sex, and have in return been all my life long maintained by them. Now, as I know you are a charitable w——e, and have a great value for men of my abilities, I make bold to ask you for a little money, though I never have had the honour of serving you in particular. However, if an opportunity should ever fall in my way, you may depend upon it I will exert myself to the uttermost, for I scorn to be ungrateful." Nell seemed very well pleased with what he had said, and made him a present of ten guineas. However, whether she wished for the opportunity he spoke of, or no, cannot be determined, because she did not explain herself ; but if a person may guess from her general character, she never was afraid of a man in her life.

When Patrick robbed on the highway he perverted several young men to the same bad course of life. One Claudius Wilt in particular was hanged at Worcester for a robbery committed in his company, though it was the first he was ever concerned in. Several others came to the same end through his seducements ; and he himself was at last executed at Gloucester for a fact committed within two miles of that city. When he had hung the usual time, his body was cut down and delivered to his acquaintance, that they might bury him as they pleased. But being carried home to one of their houses, somebody imagined they perceived life in him ; whereupon an able surgeon was privately procured to bleed him, who by that and other means which he used brought him again to his senses. The thing was kept an entire secret from the world, and it was hoped by his friends that he would spend the remainder of his forfeited

PATRICK O'BRYAN .

life, which he had so surprisingly retrieved, to a much better purpose than he had employed the former part of it.

These friends offered to contribute in any manner he should desire towards his living privately and honestly. He promised them very fairly, and for some time kept within due bounds, while the sense of what he had escaped remained fresh in his mind ; but the time was not long before, in spite of all the admonitions and assistance he received, he returned again to his villainies like a dog to his vomit, leaving his kind benefactors, stealing a fresh horse, and taking once more to the highway, where he grew as audacious as ever.

It was not above a year after his former execution before he met with the gentleman again who had convicted him before, and attacked him in the same manner. The poor gentleman was not so much surprised at being stopped on the road as he was at seeing the person who did it, being certain it was the very man whom he had seen executed. This consternation was so great that he could not help discovering it, by saying : " How comes this to pass ? I thought you had been hanged a twelvemonth ago." " So I was," says Patrick, " and therefore you ought to imagine that what you see now is only my ghost. However, lest you should be so uncivil as to hang my ghost too, I think it my best way to secure you." Upon this he discharged a pistol through the gentleman's head ; and, not content with that, dismounting from his horse, he drew out a sharp hanger from his side and cut the dead carcass into several pieces.

This piece of barbarity was followed by another, which was rather more horrible yet. Patrick, with four more as bad as himself, having intelligence that Lancelot Wilmot, Esq., of Wiltshire, had a great deal of money and plate in his house, which stood in a lonely place about a mile and a half from Trowbridge, they beset it one night and got in. When they were entered they tied and gagged the three servants, and then proceeded to the old gentleman's room, where he was in bed with his lady. They served both these in the same manner, and then went into the daughter's chamber. This young lady they severally forced one after

NEWGATE CALENDAR

another to their brutal pleasure, and when they had done, most inhumanly stabbed her, because she endeavoured to get from their arms. They next acted the same tragedy on the father and mother, which, they told them, was because they did not breed up their daughter to better manners. Then they rifled the house of everything valuable which they could find in it that was fit to be carried off, to the value in all of two thousand five hundred pounds. After which they set the building on fire, and left it to consume, with the unhappy servants who were in it.

Patrick continued above two years after this before he was apprehended, and possibly might never have been suspected of this fact if one of his bloody accomplices had not been hanged for another crime at Bedford. This wretch at the gallows confessed all the particulars, and discovered the persons concerned with him; a little while after which, O'Bryan was seized at his lodging in Little Suffolk Street, near the Haymarket, and committed to Newgate; from whence before the next assizes he was conveyed to Salisbury, where he owned the fact himself, and all the other particulars of his wicked actions that have been here related. He was now a second time executed, and great care was taken to do it effectually. There was not, indeed, much danger of his recovering any more, because his body was immediately hung in chains near the place where the barbarous deed was perpetrated. He was in the thirty-first year of his age at the time of his execution, which was on Tuesday, the 30th of April, in the year 1689.

THOMAS RUMBOLD

Who, if all the Stories about him be true, was a very notable Cheat. Executed in 1689

THIS Thomas Rumbold was descended from honest and creditable parents at Ipswich, in Suffolk. In his youth he was put apprentice to a bricklayer, but evil inclinations having an ascendant over his mind, he went from his

THOMAS RUMBOLD.

master before he had well served two-thirds of his time. This elopement obliged him to pursue some irregularities to support himself. He absconded from his father's house, and having a desire to see London, he came up to town, where, getting into the company of a notorious gang of robbers, he went on the highway, and frequently took a purse. This course he continued some time, in conjunction with confederates; but having a mind to make prizes by himself, he ventured by himself, committing several depredations on his countrymen, the following whereof have come to our hands.

One time, being informed that the Most Reverend Dr William Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King James II., was to make a journey from Lambeth Palace to the city of Canterbury, he was determined to waylay him; and accordingly, getting sight of him between Rochester and Sittingbourne, in Kent, he gets into a field, and spreading a large tablecloth on the grass, on which he had placed several handfuls of gold, he then takes a box and dice out of his pocket, and falls a-playing at hazard by himself. His Grace riding by that place, and espying a man shaking his elbows by himself, sent one of his footmen to know the meaning of it. The man was no sooner come up to Rumbold, who was still playing very eagerly, swearing and staring like a fury at his losses, but he returns to the reverend prelate, and telling him what he had seen, his Grace stepped out of his coach to him, and seeing none but him, asked him who he was to play with? "Damn it," said Rumbold, "there's five hundred pounds gone. Pray, sir, be silent." His Grace going to speak again: "Aye," said Rumbold, "there's a hundred pounds more lost." "Prithee," said the Archbishop, "who art thou to play with?" Rumbold replied, "With ——." "And how will you send the money to him?" "By," said Rumbold, "his ambassadors; and therefore, looking upon your Grace to be one of them extraordinary, I shall beg the favour of you to carry it him." Accordingly, giving his Grace about six hundred pounds in gold and silver, he put it into the seat of his coach, and away

NEWGATE CALENDAR

he rode to Sittingbourne to bait. Rumbold rode thither also to bait in another inn; and riding some short while before his Grace, as soon as he had sight of him again, he planted himself in another field in the same playing posture as he had before; which his Grace seeing, when riding by, went again to see this strange gamester, whom he then took to be really a madman. No sooner was his Grace approaching Rumbold, who then had little or no money upon his cloth, than he cried out: "Six hundred pounds." "What!" said the Archbishop, "lost again?" "No," replied Rumbold; "won, by gad! I'll play this hand out, and then leave off. So, eight hundred pounds more, sir, won, I'll leave off while I'm well." "And whom have you won off?" said his Grace. "Off the same person," replied Rumbold, "that I left the six hundred pounds with you for before you went to dinner." "And how," said his Grace, "will you get your winnings?" Says Rumbold, "Off his ambassador too." So, riding up with sword and pistol in hand to his Grace's coach, he took fourteen hundred pounds out of the seat thereof above his own money, which he had entrusted in his hands to give to —, and rode off.

One day, at Colebrook, being informed that a couple of travellers lay at a certain inn in the abovesaid town he rose early the next morning to waylay them in their journey to Reading, so went before them to surprise them at Maidenhead Thicket; but the travellers being cunning, they had given out in public the wrong road they were to go, for instead of riding to Reading, they went to Windsor, so that Rumbold, missing his prey, rode back again very melancholy, when meeting with the Earl of Oxford, who was attended only with one groom and a footman, he clapped his hair into his mouth to disguise himself for his intended design, and attacked his lordship with the terrifying words "Stand and deliver," withal swearing that if he made any resistance he was a dead man. The expostulations the Earl used to save what he had were as much in vain as to pretend to wash a blackamoor white; however he swore too that, since he must lose what he had, Rumbold should search

THOMAS RUMBOLD.

his pockets himself, for he would not be at that trouble. Upon this, our adventurer, commanding his lordship's servants to keep at above a hundred-foot distance upon pain of death, took the pains of searching the Earl, when, finding nothing but boxes and dice in the pockets of his coat and waistcoat, he began to rend the skies with many first-rate oaths, swearing also that he believed he was the groom porter, or else some gaming sharper going to bite the poor country people at their fairs and markets, till searching his breeches, he found within a good gold watch and six guineas. He changed his angry countenance into smiling features, and giving his lordship eighteenpence, bade him be of good cheer, go up to his regiment then at London as fast as he could, and do his duty as he ought, and when he next met with him he would give him better encouragement.

Rumbold having a long time observed a goldsmith in Lombard Street to be very intent in counting several bags of money was resolved to have a share out of some of them ; but having tried several essays, still came off disappointed. He had several rings about him which he had got by robbing, one of which had a very fine diamond set in it. Money being wanting, and so many disappointments crossing his desires, he went to the goldsmith's to sell him the ring, in company with a servant he kept. On entering the shop he pulled the ring off his finger and asked him what it was worth. The goldsmith, looking on him, and then on the ring, hoped to make the ring his own for a small matter ; and seeing our adventurer (who had disguised himself in a plain country dress), believed that he had little skill in diamonds, and that this came accidentally into his possession, and that he might purchase it very easily. Wherefore being doubtful what to answer as to the price, he told the countryman that the worth of it was uncertain, for he could not directly tell whether it was a right or a counterfeit one. "As for that," said our pretended countryman, "I believe it is a right one, and dare warrant it ; and indeed I intend to sell it, and therefore would know what you intend to give me for it." "Truly," replied the goldsmith, "it may be worth

NEWGATE CALENDAR

ten pounds." "Yes, and more money," said the countryman. "Not much more," answered the goldsmith; "for look you here," said he, "here is a ring which I will warrant is much better than yours, and I will also warrant it to be a good diamond, and I will sell it you for twenty pounds." This the goldsmith said, supposing that the countryman, who came to sell, had no skill, inclination or money to buy. But our pretended countryman, believing that the goldsmith only said this thinking to draw him on to part with his own ring the more easily, and by that means cheat him, resolved, if he could, to be too wise for the goldsmith; wherefore, taking both the rings into his hands, through a pretence of comparing them together, he thus said: "I am sure mine is a right diamond." "And so is mine," replied the goldsmith. "And," said the countryman, "shall I have it for twenty pounds?" "Yes," replied the goldsmith. "But," said he, "I suppose you came to sell and not to buy; and since you shall see I will be a good customer, I will give you fifteen pounds for yours." "Nay," replied the countryman, "since I have the choice to buy or sell, I will never refuse a good pennyworth, as I think this is; therefore Master Goldsmith, I will keep my own, and give you money for yours." "Where is it?" said the goldsmith hastily. And endeavouring then to seize on his ring—"Hold a blow there," said Rumbold; "here's your money, but the ring I will keep." The goldsmith, seeing himself thus caught, fluttered and bounced like a madman, and Rumbold, pulling out a little purse, tolled down twenty pieces of gold, and said: "Here, shopkeeper, here's your money, but I hope you will allow the eighteenpence apiece in exchange for my gold." "Tell me not of exchange, but give me my ring," said the goldsmith. "It is mine," said the countryman, "for I have bought it, and paid for it, and have witness of my bargain." All this would not serve the goldsmith's turn, but he cursed and swore that Rumbold, the pretended countryman, came to cheat him, and the ring he would have; and at the noise several people came about the shop, but he was so perplexed he could not tell his tale. At length

THOMAS RUMBOLD.

a constable came, and although the goldsmith knew not to what purpose, yet before a justice he would go. Rumbold seemed content, and therefore before a justice they went together. When they came there, the goldsmith, who was the plaintiff, began his tale, and said that the countryman had taken a diamond ring from him worth one hundred pounds, and would give him but twenty pounds for it. "Have a care," replied Rumbold, "for if you charge me with taking a ring from you, I suppose that is stealing, and if you say so, I shall vex you more than I have yet done"; and then he told the justice the whole story as here related, which was then a very plain case, and for the proof of the matter our pretended country gentleman's man was a witness. The goldsmith, hearing this, alleged that he believed the country gentleman and his man were both impostors and cheats. To this our adventurer replied, as before, that he had better have a care he did not make his case worse, and bring an old house over his head by slandering him thus; for it was well known that he was a gentleman of three hundred pounds per annum, and lived at a place not above twenty miles from London, and that he, being desirous to sell a ring, came to his shop for that purpose; and he would have cheated him, but it proved that he only made a rod for his own breech, and what he intended for him had fallen upon himself. Thus did our adventurer make good his case; and the justice, seeing there was no injustice done, dismissed him, and ordered that his neighbour the goldsmith should have the twenty pieces of gold for twenty pounds, though they were worth more in exchange, and this was all the satisfaction he had.

Rumbold had a mighty itching after the goldsmiths' money in Lombard Street; he could not pass through that street and hear those tradesmen telling their sums but his hands longed to be feeling them. He had a boy who constantly attended him, who, every time his master had a mind to make some advantage to himself, went into a goldsmith's shop, took up a handful of money, and then, letting it all fall down on the counter, ran out. One time the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

boy performed this trick the servants in the shop ran after him and taxed him with stealing some of the money. Rumbold, who always vindicated his youngster, bade them take care what they said, and positively affirmed that his boy had not taken a farthing, and must be so plain with them as to tell them that the goldsmith should pay for it. Hereupon they fell to hot words, and the goldsmith, calling our adventurer a shirking fellow, said he would have both him and the boy sent to Newgate for robbing him, and that in conclusion he must and should pay for it. At first our adventurer desired to know with what sum they pretended to charge the boy; they said they knew not, but that he had taken money from a heap they were telling, and which was a hundred pounds. Rumbold, hearing them say thus, told them that he would stay the telling of it, and then they might judge who had the abuse. They were content with it, and accordingly went to telling. Half-an-hour had dispatched that matter, and then they found all their money was right to a farthing. The goldsmith, seeing this, asked our adventurer's pardon for the affront they had done him, saying it was a mistake. Rumbold answered to this that he must pay for his prating; and that being a person of quality, he would not put up with the affront, and that he must expect to hear further from him. The goldsmith, seeing our adventurer hot, was as cholerick as he, and so they parted for that time. Rumbold the next day got the goldsmith to be arrested in an action of defamation, and the serjeant who arrested him, being well fed by our adventurer, told the goldsmith that he had better by far compound the matter, for the gentleman he had injured was a person of quality, and would not put it up, but make him pay soundly for it if he proceeded any further. The goldsmith, being desirous of quiet, hearkened to his counsel, and agreed to give ten pounds; but that would not be taken, so twenty pounds was given to our adventurer, and the business was made up for the present.

Rumbold having got some of the goldsmith's money was determined to have more, or venture hard for it;

THOMAS RUMBOLD

wherefore having again given instructions to his boy what to do, he made several journeys to the goldsmith's, walking by his door to watch an opportunity. At length he found one ; for seeing the servants tell a considerable quantity of gold, he gave the sign to his boy, who presently went in and, clapping his hand on the heap, took up and brought away a full handful, and coming to his master gave it him. Neither did the boy make so much haste out of the shop but that he could hear a stranger, who was in the shop receiving of money, say to the apprentice : " Why, do not you stop the boy ? " " No," said the apprentice, " I do not mean to ; I know him well enough. My master paid sauce lately for stopping of him." And so they continued telling of their money.

Rumbold being intimately acquainted with a jeweller in Foster Lane, whom he had often helped to the sale of rings and jewels, which made his credit good with him, went one time into his workroom, and chancing to spy a very rich jewel he told him that he could help him to the sale thereof, my lady such-an-one having spoken to him about such a thing. The jeweller, glad of the opportunity, delivered it to our adventurer at such a price to sell for him. But Rumbold only carried it to another workman to have another made like it with counterfeit stones. Before he went, he asked if the lady disliked it whether he might leave it with his wife or servant. " Aye, aye," says he, " either will be sufficient." Rumbold was forced to watch a whole day to see when he went out, and being gone, presently went to the shop and inquired of his wife for her husband. She answered him that he was but just gone. " Well, madam," said he, " you can do my business as well as he ; it is only to deliver these stones into your custody " ; and so he went his way. Not long after, Rumbold met the jeweller in the street with displeasing looks. " Sir," said he, " I thought a friend would not have served me so." But our adventurer denied it stiffly ; whereupon he was very angry, and told him he would prosecute him. Rumbold seemed not to value his threats, and so left him. Rumbold was not gone many paces

NEWGATE CALENDAR

before he met with a friend who complained to him that he had lost a very valuable locket of his wife's, it being stolen from her. Rumbold was glad to hear of such a circumstance that had fallen out so favourably to his present purpose; he asked him to give him a description of it, which he did punctually. "Now," said Rumbold, "what will you give me if I tell you where it is?" "Anything in reason." "Then go to such a shop in Foster Lane" (the same shop where he had cheated the man of his ring) "and there ask peremptorily for it, for I was there at such a time and saw it—nay, he would have had me help him to a customer for it; meantime I'll stay at the Star Tavern for you." Away he went and demanded his locket. The jeweller denied he had any such thing (as well he might). Upon this, Rumbold advised him to have a warrant for him, and to fetch him before a Justice of the Peace; and that he and the person who was with him would swear it. The goldsmith was instantly seized on by a constable, and as soon as he saw who they were that would swear against him, desired the gentleman to drink a glass of wine, and then ordered him satisfaction. But Rumbold had so ordered the business that it would not be taken unless he would give all three general releases. The goldsmith, knowing the danger that might ensue to life and estate if he persisted, consented to the proposal.

Rumbold walking one time in the fields with an attendant or two, who should be constantly bare before him if in company with any person of quality, but otherwise kind-fellow-well-met, he was got as far as Hackney before he knew he was, for his thoughts were busied in forming designs, and his wit was contriving how to put them into execution. Casting his eye on one side of him, he saw the prettiest-built and well-situated house that ever his eyes beheld. He had immediately a covetous desire to be master thereof. He was then, as fortune would have it, in a very handsome dress. He walked but a little way farther before he found out a plot to accomplish his desires. And thus it was. He returned and knocked at the gate, and demanded of the servant whether his master was within. He understood he

THOMAS RUMBOLD ·

was, and thereupon desired to speak with him. The gentleman came out to him himself, and desired him to walk in. After Rumbold had made a general apology, he told him his business, which was only to request the favour of him that he might have the privilege to bring a workman to survey his house and to take his dimensions thereof, because he was so well pleased with the building that he earnestly desired to have another built exactly after that pattern. The gentleman could do no less than grant him so much civility. Coming home, he went to a carpenter, telling him he was about to buy a house at Hackney, and that he would have him go along with him, to give him (in private) the estimate. Accordingly they went, and found the gentleman at home, who entertained our adventurer kindly as a stranger. In the meantime the carpenter took an exact account of the buts and bounds of the house on paper, which was as much as he desired at that time.

Paying the carpenter well, he dismissed him, and by that paper had a lease drawn with a very great fine (mentioned to have been paid) at a small rent. Witnesses he did not want to his deed, and shortly after he demanded possession. The gentleman, thinking our adventurer out of his wits, only laughed at him. Rumbold commenced a suit of law against him, and produced his creatures to swear to his sealing and delivery of the lease, and the carpenter's evidence, with many other probable circumstances to corroborate his cause; whereupon he had a verdict. The gentleman, by this time understanding who our adventurer was, thought it safer to compound with him and lose something rather than all.

Another time, Rumbold, coming early one morning to an inn in the country, called for a flagon of beer, and desired a private room—"For," said he, "I have company coming to me, and we have business together." The tapster accordingly showed him a room, and brought him a flagon of beer, and with it a silver cup worth three pounds. Rumbold drank off his beer and called for another flagon, and at the same time desired the landlord to bear him company. The landlord, seeing him alone, sat and talked with him about State

NEWGATE CALENDAR

affairs till they were both weary and the landlord was ready to leave him. "Well," said our adventurer, "I see my company will not come, and therefore I will not stay any longer." Neither did he; but having drank up his beer, he called to pay. "Fourpence," said the tapster. "There it is," answered our adventurer, laying it down, and so he went out of the room. The tapster stayed behind to bring away the flagon and silver cup, yet though he found the flagon, the cup was not to be found; wherefore, running hastily out of the room, he cried: "Stop the man!" Rumbold was not in such haste but that he quickly stopped of himself; he was not quite gone out of the doors, and therefore soon returned to the bar; where, when he was come—"Well," said he, "what is the matter? What would you have?" "The cup," answered the tapster, "that I brought to you." "I left it in the room," replied Rumbold. "I cannot find it," answered the tapster; and at this noise the landlord appeared, who, hearing what was the matter, said: "I am sure the cup was there but just now, for I drank out of it." "Aye, and it is there for me," replied our adventurer. "Look then further," said the landlord. The tapster did so, but neither high nor low could he find the cup. "Well, then," said the landlord, "if it be gone you must pay for it, countryman, for you must either have it or know of its going, and therefore you must pay for it." "Not I, indeed," replied our adventurer; "you see I have none of it. I have not been out of your house, nor nobody has been with me, how then can I have it? You may search me." The landlord immediately caused him to be searched, but there was no cup to be found. However, the landlord was resolved not to lose his cup so, and therefore he sent for a constable, and charged him with our adventurer, and threatened him with the justice. All this would not do, and Rumbold told him that threatened folks live long, and if he would go before a justice, he was ready to bear him company to him. The landlord was more and more perplexed at this, and seeing he could not have his cup, nor nothing confessed, before the justice they went. When they came, the landlord told the

THOMAS RUMBOLD

story as truly as it was, and our pretended countryman made the same answer there as he had done before to the landlord. The justice was perplexed, not knowing how to do justice. Here was a cup lost, and Rumbold did not deny but he had it; but gone it was, and although Rumbold was pursued, yet he did not fly; he had nobody with him, and therefore it could not be conveyed away by confederacy; and for his own part he had been and was again searched, but no such thing found about him, and he in all respects pleaded innocence. This though considered, and weighed in the balance of justice, he could not think that our adventurer had it, and therefore to commit him would be injustice. He considered all he could, and was inclined to favour the countryman, who was altogether a stranger, and he believed innocent, especially when he considered what kind of person the landlord was, of whose life and conversation he had both heard and known enough to cause him to believe that it might be possible that all this might be a trick of the landlord's to cheat our adventurer; and therefore he gave his judgment that he did not believe by the evidence that was given that the countryman had the cup, and that he would not commit him unless the landlord would lay and swear point-blank felony to his charge, and of that he desired the landlord to beware. The landlord, seeing how the affair was likely to go, said no more, but he left it to Mr Justice, who, being of the opinion above-mentioned, discharged Rumbold, and advised the landlord to let him hear no more of such matters, and if he could not secure his plate, and know what company he had delivered it to, then to keep it up. The landlord thanked the justice for his advice, and so departed, our pretended countryman going about his business, and he returning home, being heartily vexed at his loss and the carriage of the whole affair, which was neither for his profit nor credit; but he was forced to sit down with the loss, being extremely uneasy at thinking which way he had lost the cup. He threw away some money upon a cunning man to know what was become of it, but all he could tell him was that he would hear of it

NEWGATE CALENDAR

again ; and so he did shortly after, though it was to his further cost, and to little purpose.

He had some occasion to go to the market-town during the time of the assizes, and there seeing the prisoners brought to their trials, among others he espied Rumbold, whom he had charged with the silver cup. He inquired what was his crime, and was told it was for picking of a pocket. "Nay, then," said the landlord, "probably I may hear of my cup again." And therefore, when the trial was over and the prisoners carried back to the jail, he went and inquired for our adventurer, to whose presence he was soon brought. "O Lord, master ! how do you do ? Who thought to have seen you here ? I believe you have not met with so good friends in this country as you did at our town of our justice ; but let that pass. Come, let us drink together." Hereupon a jug of ale was called for and some tobacco, which they very lovingly drank off, and smoked together ; which done, said the landlord to our adventurer : "I would gladly be resolved in one point, which I question not but you can do." "I suppose you mean," said Rumbold, "about the old business of the silver cup you lost ?" "Yes," said the landlord ; "and the losing of it does not so much vex me as the manner how it was lost, and therefore," continued he, "if you would do me the kindness to give me the satisfaction how you came by it, I do protest I will acquit you although you are directly guilty." "No, that will not do," replied Rumbold ; "there is somewhat else in the case." "Well, then," said the landlord, "if you will tell me, I will give you ten shillings to drink." "Ready money does very well in a prison," said our adventurer, "and will prevail much ; but how shall I be assured that you will not prosecute me if I should chance to be concerned ?" "For that," replied the landlord, "I can give you no other warrant than my oath, which I will inviolably keep." "Well, then," said Rumbold, "down with the merry grigs ; let me handle the money, and I'll be very true to you, and as for your charging me with it I fear you not." The landlord, being big with expectation to know how this clean conveyance was

THOMAS RUMBOLD

wrought, soon laid down the ten shillings, and then our countryman thus proceeded: "I must confess that I know which way your cup went, but when you charged me with it I had it not, neither was it out of the room, and I must tell you this, that if you had sought narrowly you might have found it, but it was not there long after. We who live by our wits must act by policy more than downright strength, and this cannot be done without confederates, and I had such in the management of this affair, for I left the cup fastened with soft wax under the middle of the board of the table where I drank; which place of the table, by reason it was covered with a cloth, as you may remember it was, it could not well be seen, and therefore you and your servants missed it. You know that very willingly I went with you to the justice; and whilst we were gone, those friends and confederates of mine, whom I had appointed, and who knew the room and everything else, went into the house, and into the same room, where they found the silver cup, and without the least suspicion went fairly off with it; and at a place appointed we met, and there acquainted one another with our adventures; and what purchases we had made we equally shared them between us." The landlord, at hearing this discourse, was extremely surprised, although fully satisfied. "But yet," said he, "I would be resolved one question, which is this: How if we had found it where you had put it whilst you were there?" "Why, truly," said Rumbold, "then you would have charged me with nothing, and I would have put it off with a jest; and if that would not have done, the most you could have done would have been only to have kicked and beaten me, and those things we of our quality must venture. You know the old proverbs, 'Nothing venture, nothing have'; and 'Faint heart never won fair lady.' And we have this other proverb to help us: 'Fortune favours the bold,' as it commonly does those of our quality, and she did me, I thank her, in that attempt." Rumbold thus descanted upon his actions, and the landlord, finding no likelihood of getting his cup, or anything else, from our adventurer, returned home.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

We shall give our readers now the last adventure of Rumbold which he performed upon this mortal stage. It is this :

Our adventurer, in company with two or three more cheats going together, saw a countryman who had a purse of money in his hand ; they had observed him draw it to pay for some gingerbread he had bought on the road, wherefore they closed with him and endeavoured to nip his bung—pick his pocket—but could not, for he, knowing he was in a dangerous place, and among as dangerous company, put his purse of money into his breeches, which being close at the knees secured it from falling out, and besides he was very sly in having anybody come too near him. Our practitioners in the art of thieving, seeing this would not do, set their wits to working further, and having all their tools ready about them, and taking a convenient time and place, one of them goes before and drops a letter. Another of our adventurers, who had joined himself to the countryman, seeing it lie fairly for the purpose, says to him : “ Look you, what is here ! ” But although the countryman did stoop to take it up, yet our adventurer was too nimble for him in that, and having it in hand, said : “ Here is somewhat else besides a letter.” “ I cry half,” said the countryman. “ Well,” said Rumbold, “ you stooped indeed as well as I, but I have it ; however I’ll be fair with you. Let us see what it is, and whether it is worth the dividing.” And thereupon he breaks open the letter and there sees a fair chain or necklace of gold. “ Good fortune,” says Rumbold, “ if this be right gold.” “ How shall we know that ? ” replied the countryman. “ Let us see what the letter says.” Which being short, and to the purpose, spoke thus :

BROTHER JOHN,—I have here sent you back this necklace of gold you have sent me, not for any dislike I have to it, but my wife is covetous and would have a bigger ; this comes not to above seven pounds, and she would have one of ten pounds ; therefore pray get it changed for one of that price, and send it by the bearer to your loving brother,

JACOB THORNTON.

THOMAS RUMBOLD

“Nay, then, we have good luck,” said the cheating dog, our adventurer; “but I hope,” continued he to the countryman, “you will not expect a full share, for you know I found it, and besides, if we should divide it, I know not how to break it in pieces, but I doubt it would spoil it, therefore I had rather have my share in money.” “Well,” said the countryman, “I’ll give you your share in money, provided I may have a full share.” “That you shall,” said Rumbold, “and therefore I must have of you three pounds ten shillings, the price in all being as you see seven pounds.” “Aye,” said the countryman (thinking to be too cunning for our adventurer), “it may be worth seven pounds in money in all, fashion and all, but we must not value that, but only the gold; therefore I think three pounds in money is better than half the chain, and so much I’ll give you if you’ll let me have it.” “Well, I’m contented,” said Rumbold, “but then you shall give me a pint of wine over and above.” To this the countryman also agreed, and to a tavern they went, where Rumbold received the three pounds, and the countryman the chain, who believed he had met with good fortune. They drank off their wine and were going away, but Rumbold, having not yet done with him, intending to get the rest of the money from him, offered him his pint of wine, which the countryman accepted of; but before they had drank it off, in comes another of the same tribe, who asked whether such a man, naming one, were there. “No,” said the bar-keeper. Rumbold—the countryman sitting near the other cheat all the while—asked of the inquirer: “Did not you inquire for such a man?” “Yes,” said the inquirer. “Why,” said Rumbold, “I can tell you this news of him, that it will not be long before he comes hither, for I met him as I came in, and he appointed me to come in here and stay with him.” “Well then, it is best for me to stay,” said the inquirer; “but,” continued he, “it would be more proper for us to take a larger room, for we cannot stir ourselves in this.” “Agreed,” said Rumbold. So the reckoning was paid, and they agreed to take a larger room, leaving word at the bar that if any inquiry should be made for them,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

there they should find them. Accordingly they went into another room, and the countryman, having done his business, gave signs of going away. "No," said Rumbold, "I beg you would stay and keep us company; it shall not cost you anything." "Well then," said the countryman, "I am content to stay a little." Being now in the room they called for a quart of wine, and drank it off. "What shall we do to spend time?" said the last cheat, "for I am weary of staying for this man. Are you sure you are not mistaken?" "No," said the other. One of them upon this pretended to walk a turn round the room and, coming to the window, behind a cushion finds a pack of cards, which indeed he himself had laid there. "Look you here," said he to the countryman and the other, "I have found some tools; now we may go to work and spend our time, if you will play." "Not I," said the countryman, "I'll not play." "Then I will," said Rumbold; "but not for money." "Why then," said the other, "for sixpence to be spent, and the game shall be putt." They being agreed, and the countryman being made overseer of the game, fell to playing, and the countryman's first acquaintance had the better of it, winning twelve games to the other's four. "Come," said he, "what shall we do with all this drink? We will play twopence wet and fourpence dry." To this the other agreed, and so they played; and at this low gaming Rumbold had, in short, won off his confederate ten shillings in money. The loser seemed to be angry, and therefore proposed to play for all money, hoping to make himself whole again. "Nay," said the other, "I shall not refuse your proposition, because I have won your money." And therefore to it they went, and Rumbold had still the same luck, and won ten shillings more. Then the other would play for twelvecence a game. "No," said Rumbold, "I am not willing to exceed sixpence a game; I will not alter what I have begun, lest I change my fortune, unless this honest countryman will go my halves." "I have no mind to gaming," replied the countryman. "You need not play," said the other; "I'll do that, and you see my fortune is good. Venture a crown with me; you know we

THOMAS RUMBOLD

have both had fortune, which I hope will continue propitious to us still." "Well content," said the countryman, and so they proceeded. Still Rumbold had good fortune, and he and the countryman won ten shillings apiece more off the other, which made them merry, and the other was extremely enraged; he therefore told them he would either win the horse or lose the saddle, and venture all now; and drawing out about thirty shillings, "Come, take it all, win it and wear it," and so they played. But they had now drawn the countryman in sufficiently, and he was flush, but it lasted not long thus before he was taken down a buttonhole lower, for the fortune changed, and what he had won was lost, and forty shillings more. He was now angry, but to no purpose, for he did not discover their foul play; and he, in hopes of his good fortune, ventured and lost the other forty shillings. And then he said he would go halves no longer, for he thought he would be merry and wise, and if he could not make a winning, he would be sure to make a secure bargain; which he reckoned he should do, because although he had lost four pounds in money, and given Rumbold three pounds for his share of the chain, that yet he should make seven pounds off the chain, and so be no loser. They seeing he would not play left off, and he that had won the money was content to give a collation, which was called for; but Rumbold, pretending much anger at his loss, was resolved to venture more, and to playing again he went, and in a short time he recovered a great deal of his losses. This vexed the countryman that he had not joined with him, and in the end, seeing his good fortune continue, and that he won, he again went halves, but it was not long that they thrived. The countryman was obliged to draw his purse, and in the end lost all his money, which was near twenty pounds. He did not think his condition to be so bad as it was, because he believed he had a chain worth seven pounds in his pocket, and therefore he reckoned he had not lost all. By this time several other confederates (having been abroad, employed on the same account, cozening and cheating of others) came into the tavern, which was the place appointed for their rendezvous;

NEWGATE CALENDAR

then they acquainted one another of their several gains and prizes, and afterwards fell to drinking, which they did very plentifully, and the countryman for anger called up the landlord to make one of the company. He soon understood what kind of guests he had in his house, and how they had cheated the poor countryman, and therefore he was resolved to serve them in the same sort. Accordingly he put forward the affair of drinking; and some, being hungered, called for victuals. He told them he would get them what they pleased, and they being determined to take up their quarters there for that night, a supper was bespoke for all the company, such as the master of the house in his discretion should think fit. He told them they should have it, and accordingly went down to provide supper. He soon returned and helped them off with their liquor till supper-time: by this time they were all perfectly drunk. He then commanded up supper, and they fell to with a shoulder of mutton and two capons. After supper, and having consumed more liquor, they went to bed, and it was time, for it was past midnight. They all slept better than the countryman, who could hardly sleep a wink for thinking on his misfortunes, and having such good fortune in the morning it should prove so bad before night. But morning being come, he and they all arose, and the countryman's money being all spent he knew it was to no purpose for him to stay there; wherefore he resolved to go to a goldsmith in the city and sell or pawn his chain, that he might have some money to carry him home. Being come to the goldsmith's he produced the chain, which though at first sight he took to be gold, yet upon trial he found it otherwise, and that it was but brass gilt. He told the countryman the same, who at this heavy news was like to break his heart. The goldsmith, seeing the countryman in such a melancholy taking, inquired of him how he came by it. He soon acquainted him with the manner, and every circumstance. The goldsmith, as soon as he understood the cheat, advised him to go to a justice and get a warrant for him that had thus cheated him; and the countryman telling him he had no money nor friend,

THOMAS RUMBOLD

being a stranger, he himself went with him to the justice, who soon understood the matter, and granted his warrant. The goldsmith procured a constable to go with him to the tavern, or night-house, where Rumbold was apprehended; but he found means some way or other to make his escape out of the house, as did the rest by main force.

Rumbold was not, as men of his profession generally are, very lavish with his money, for he had got above six hundred pounds, which he put into a friend's hands, with a resolution to improve it to the best advantage, without venturing his neck any more by robbing; but his banker (which makes good the old proverb, "To deceive the deceiver is no deceit") running off with his cash, he was forced to take to the old trade of padding again, till he was like to have been taken at a lodging in Golden Lane, at the end of Red Cross Street, by Barbican, but by a very narrow escape getting free of his pursuers, he still followed his wicked course of life, till he was at last apprehended and sent to Newgate. Being afterwards brought to his trial at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, he was condemned, and whilst under sentence of death was particularly visited by one Mr Downs, formerly a factor at Virginia and Maryland in America. Whilst Rumbold was in the condemned hold he began to have serious meditations of his former ill-spent life; and through the great pains Mr Downs took with him in his melancholy moments he entertained good thoughts about preparing himself for his latter end, earnestly requiring him that he would vouchsafe the favour of seeing him ride up Holborn to make his last exit at Tyburn. Accordingly Mr Downs granted his request, by not only standing in an ale-house to see him go by, but also charitably calling out to him, saying, "Dear friend Rumbold, I wish you a good journey," which he took so kindly at his hands that he went with a great deal of joy to the gallows, saying that now he plainly saw, to his great consolation, that his old acquaintance would not forget him to the last. So he ended his wicked life, aged about forty-six years, in 1689.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

WILLIAM DAVIS, THE GOLDEN FARMER

*Who was Farmer and Highwayman for Forty-two Years
without his Neighbours suspecting. Executed
20th of December, 1689*

THE Golden Farmer was so called from his occupation and from paying people, if it was any considerable sum, always in gold; but his real name was William Davis, born at Wrexham, in Denbighshire, in North Wales, from whence he removed, in his younger years, to Salisbury, in Gloucestershire, where he married the daughter of a wealthy innkeeper, by whom he had eighteen children, and followed the farmer's business to the day of his death, to shroud his robbing on the highway, which irregular practice he had followed for forty-two years without any suspicion among his neighbours.

He generally robbed alone, and one day, meeting three or four stage-coaches going to Salisbury, he stopped one of them which was full of gentlewomen, one of whom was a Quaker. All of them satisfied the Golden Farmer's desire excepting this precisian, with whom he had a long argument to no purpose, for upon her solemn vow and affirmation she told him she had no money, nor anything valuable about her; whereupon, fearing he should lose the booty of the other coaches, he told her he would go and see what they had to afford him, and he would wait on her again. So having robbed the other three coaches he returned, according to his word, and the Quaker persisting still in her old tone of having nothing for him it put the Golden Farmer into a rage, and taking hold of her shoulder, shaking her as a mastiff does a bull, he cried: "You canting bitch! if you dally with me at this rate, you'll certainly provoke my spirit to be damnably rude with you. You see these good women here were so tenderhearted as to be charitable to me, and you, you whining whore, are so covetous as to lose your life for the sake of mammon. Come, come, you hollow-hearted bitch, unpin your purse-string quickly, or else I shall send you out of the land of the living." Now the poor Quaker,

WILLIAM DAVIS, THE GOLDEN FARMER

being frightened out of her wits at the bullying expressions of the wicked one, gave him a purse of guineas, a gold watch and a diamond ring, and they parted then as good friends as if they had never fallen out at all.

Another time this desperado, meeting with the Duchess of Albemarle in her coach, riding over Salisbury Plain, was put to his trumps before he could assault her Grace, by reason he had a long engagement with a postilion, a coachman and two footmen before he could proceed in his robbery; but having wounded them all, by the discharging of several pistols, he then approached to his prey, whom he found more refractory than his female Quaker had been, which made him very saucy, and more eager for fear of any passengers coming by in the meanwhile; but still her Grace would not part with anything. Whereupon by main violence he pulled three diamond rings off her fingers, and snatched a rich gold watch from her side, crying to her at the same time, because he saw her face painted: "You bitch incarnate, you had rather read over your face in the glass every moment, and blot out pale to put in red, than give an honest man, as I am, a small matter to support him on his lawful occasions on the road," and then rode away as fast as he could, without searching her Grace for any money, because he perceived another person of quality's coach making towards them, with a good retinue of servants belonging to it.

Not long after this exploit, the Golden Farmer meeting with Sir Thomas Day, a Justice of Peace living at Bristol, on the road betwixt Gloucester and Worcester, they fell into discourse together, and riding along he told Sir Thomas, whom he knew, though the other did not know him, how he was like to have been robbed but a little before by a couple of highwaymen; but as good luck would have it, his horse having better heels than theirs, he got clear of them, or else, if they had robbed him of his money, which was about forty pounds, they would certainly have undone him for ever. "Truly," quoth Sir Thomas Day, "that would have been very hard; but nevertheless, as you would have been

NEWGATE CALENDAR

robbed between sun and sun, the county, upon your suing it, would have been obliged to have made your loss good again." But not long after this chatting together, coming to a convenient place, the Golden Farmer, shooting Sir Thomas's man's horse under him, and obliging him to retire some distance from it, that he might not make use of the pistols that were in his holsters, presented a pistol to Sir Thomas's breast, and demanded his money of him. Quoth Sir Thomas : " I thought, sir, that you had been an honest man." The Golden Farmer replied : " You see your Worship's mistaken, and had you had any guts in your brains you might have perceived by my face that my countenance was the very picture of mere necessity ; therefore deliver presently, for I am in haste." Then, Sir Thomas Day giving the Golden Farmer what money he had, which was about sixty pounds in gold and silver, he humbly thanked his Worship, and told him, that what he had parted with was not lost, because he was robbed betwixt sun and sun, therefore the county, as he told him, must pay it again.

One Mr Hart, a young gentleman of Enfield, who had a good estate, but was not overburdened with wit, and therefore could sooner change a piece of gold than a piece of sense, riding one day over Finchley Common, where the Golden Farmer had been hunting about four or five hours for a prey, he rides up to him and, giving the gentleman a slap with the flat of his drawn hanger over his shoulders, quoth he : " A plague on you ! How slow you are, to make a man wait on you all this morning. Come, deliver what you have, and be poked to you, and go to hell for orders ! " The gentleman, who was wont to find a more agreeable entertainment betwixt his mistress and his snuff-box, being surprised at the rustical sort of greeting, began to make several sorts of excuses, and say he had no money about him ; but his antagonist, not believing him, made bold to search his pockets himself, and finding in them above a hundred guineas, besides a gold watch, he gave him two or three slaps over the shoulder again with his hanger ; and at the same time bade him not give his mind to lying any

WILLIAM DAVIS, THE GOLDEN FARMER

more, when an honest gentleman desired a small boon of him.

Another time this notorious robber had paid his landlord above forty pounds for rent, who going home with it, the goodly tenant, disguising himself, met the grave old gentleman, and bidding him stand; quoth he: "Come, Mr Gravity from head to foot, but from neither head nor foot to the heart, deliver what you have in a trice." The old man, fetching a deep sigh, to the hazard of losing several buttons of his waistcoat, said that he had not above two shillings about him; therefore he thought he was more of a gentleman than to take a small matter from a poor man. Quoth the Golden Farmer: "I have not the faith to believe you; for you seem by your mien and habit to be a man of better circumstance than you pretend; therefore open your budget or else I shall fall foul about your house." "Dear sir," replied his landlord, "you cannot be so barbarous to an old man. What! Have you no religion, pity or compassion in you? Have you no conscience? Have you no respect for your own body and soul, which must be certainly in a miserable condition, if you follow unlawful courses?" "Damn you!" said the tenant to him, "don't talk of age and barbarity to me; for I show neither pity nor compassion to any. Damn you, don't talk of conscience to me! I have no more of that dull commodity than you have; nor do I allow my soul and body to be governed by religion, but interest; therefore, deliver what you have, before this pistol makes you repent your obstinacy." So, delivering his money to the Golden Farmer, he received it without giving the landlord any receipt for it, as his landlord had him.

Not long after committing this robbery, overtaking an old grazier at Putney Heath, in a very ordinary attire, but yet very rich, he takes half-a-score guineas out of his pocket, and giving them to the old man he said there were three or four persons behind them who looked very suspicious, therefore he desired the favour of him to put that gold into his pocket; for in case they were highwaymen, his indifferent apparel would make them believe he had no such charge

NEWGATE CALENDAR

about him. The old grazier, looking upon his intentions to be honest, quoth: "I have fifty guineas tied up in the fore-lappet of my shirt, and I'll put it to that for security." So riding along, both of them cheek by jowl, for above half-a-mile, and the coast being clear, the Golden Farmer said to the old man: "I believe there's nobody will take the pains of robbing you or me to-day; therefore, I think I had as good take the trouble of robbing you myself; so instead of delivering your purse, pray give me the lappet of your shirt." The old grazier was horridly startled at these words, and began to beseech him not to be so cruel in robbing a poor old man. "Prithee," quoth the Golden Farmer, "don't tell me of cruelty; for who can be more cruel than men of your age, whose pride it is to teach their servants their duties with as much cruelty as some people teach their dogs to fetch and carry?" So being obliged to cut off the lappet of the old man's shirt himself, for he would not, he rode away to seek out another booty.

Another time this bold robber, lying at an inn in Uxbridge, happened into company with one Squire Broughton, a barrister of the Middle Temple, which he understanding, pretended to him that he was going up to London to advise with a lawyer about some business; wherefore, he should be much obliged to him if he could recommend him to a good one. Counsellor Broughton, thinking he might be a good client, bespoke him for himself. Then, the Golden Farmer telling his business was about several of his neighbours' cattle breaking into his grounds and doing a great deal of mischief, the barrister told him that was very actionable, as being *damage feasant*. "*Damage feasant*," said the Golden Farmer; "what's that, pray, sir?" He told him that it was an action brought against persons when their cattle broke through hedges, or other fences, into other people's grounds, and did them damage. Next morning, as they both were riding toward London, says the Golden Farmer to the barrister: "If I may be so bold as to ask you, sir, what is that you call 'trover' and 'conversion'?" He told him it signified in our common law an action which a man has

WILLIAM DAVIS, THE GOLDEN FARMER

against another that, having found any of his goods, refuses to deliver them upon demand, and perhaps converts them to his own use also. The Golden Farmer being now at a place convenient for his purpose—"Very well, sir," says he, "and so, if I should find any money about you, and convert it to my use, why then that is only actionable, I find." "That's a robbery," said the barrister, "which requires no less satisfaction than a man's life." "A robbery!" replied the Golden Farmer. "Why then, I must e'en commit one for once and not use it; therefore deliver your money, or else behold this pistol shall prevent you from ever reading Coke upon Littleton any more." The barrister, strangely surprised at his client's rough behaviour, asked him if he thought there was neither heaven nor hell, that he could be guilty of such wicked actions. Quoth the Golden Farmer: "Why, you son of a whore, thy impudence is very great, to talk of heaven or hell to me, when you think there's no way to heaven but through Westminster Hall. Come, come, down with your rhino this minute; for I have other guess customers to mind, than to wait on you all day." The barrister was very loath to part with his money, still insisting on the injustice of the action, saying it was against law and conscience to rob any man. However the Golden Farmer, heeding not his pleading, swore [he was not to be guided by law and conscience any more than any of his profession, whose law is always furnished with a commission to arraign their consciences; but upon judgment given they usually had the knack of setting it at large. So putting a pistol to the barrister's breast, he quickly delivered his money, amounting to about thirty guineas, and eleven broad-pieces of gold, besides some silver, and a gold watch.

Thus the Golden Farmer, having run a long course in wickedness, was at last discovered in Salisbury Court; but as he was running along, a butcher, endeavouring to stop him, was shot dead by him with a pistol; being apprehended nevertheless, he was committed to Newgate, and shortly after executed, at the end of Salisbury Court, in Fleet

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Street, on Friday the 20th of December, 1689; and afterwards was hanged in chains, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, on Bagshot Heath.

JACK BIRD

A Highwayman who boxed an Earl's Chaplain for Twenty Guineas. Executed 12th of March, 1690

THIS notorious malefactor was born at Stainford, in Lincolnshire, of very honest parents, by whom, after he had been at school to learn reading, writing and accounts, he was put apprentice to a baker at Godmanchester, near Huntingdon. He had not served three years before he ran away from his master, came to Lincoln, and enlisted in the foot-guards. While he was in the army he was at the Siege of Maestricht, under the command of the Duke of Monmouth, who was General of the English Forces in the Low Countries.

Here he was reduced to such necessities as are common to men who engage themselves to kill one another for a groat or fivepence a day. This occasioned him to run away from his colours, and fly to Amsterdam, where he stole a piece of silk off a stall; for which fact he was apprehended, and dragged before a magistrate. The effect of this was a commitment to the rasp-house, where he was put to hard labour, such as rasping logwood, and other drudgeries, for a twelvemonth.

As Jack had never been used to work, he fainted under the sentence, though to little purpose; for his taskmasters, imputing it to a stubborn laziness, inflicted a severer punishment upon him, the manner of which was as follows. He was chained down to the bottom of a dry cistern by one foot; immediately upon which, several cocks were set a-running into it, and he was obliged to pump for his life. The cistern was much deeper than he was high; so that if the water had prevailed he must inevitably have been drowned, without relief or pity. Jack was very sensible of his danger,

JACK BIRD

which occasioned him to labour with all his might for an hour, which was as long as the sentence was to continue.

Having overcome this difficulty, he plied his business very well the remaining part of the year, when being released he returned into England, with a resolution to try his fortune on the highway. Near St Edmundsbury he stole a horse, and he had before provided half-a-dozen good pistols and a sword. Success attended him in his three or four first robberies, but an unlucky adventure soon brought about a turn in his affairs.

In the road between Gravesend and Chatham he met with one Mr Joseph Pinnis, a pilot of Dover, who had lost both his hands in an engagement. He had been at London to receive ten or twelve pounds for carrying a Dutch ship up the river. When Bird accosted him with the salutation common to gentlemen of his profession, "You see, sir," quoth Pinnis, "that I have never a hand; so that I am not able to take my money out of my pocket myself. Be so kind, therefore, as to take the trouble of searching me." Jack soon consented to this very reasonable request; but while he was very busy in examining the contents of the pilot's purse the boisterous old tar suddenly clapped his arms about his neck, and spurring his own horse pulled our adventurer from his; then falling directly upon him, and being a very strong man, he kept him under, and mauled him with his stirrups, which were plated. In the midst of the scuffle some passengers came by, and inquired the occasion of it. Mr Pinnis replied with telling them the particulars and desiring them to supply his place, and give the villain a little more of the same, adding that he was almost out of breath with what he had done already. When the company understood what was the reason of the pilot's labouring so hard upon the bones of our ruffian they apprehended him, and carried him before a justice, who committed him to Maidstone Jail, where he continued till the assizes, and then was condemned to be hanged.

This time Jack had the good fortune to receive mercy, and afterwards to obtain his liberty. The remembrance

NEWGATE CALENDAR

of his being so heartily thumped by a man without hands stuck so much in his stomach that he had almost a mind to grow honest; and indeed he continued pretty orderly till he was again reduced to necessitous circumstances for want of employment. He had no trade that he was master of, nor learning enough to secure him a maintenance in a genteel way; so that when he found himself in the utmost straits, he could see no other method of supporting himself than what he had formerly followed.

The first that he met with, after he had resolved to set out in pursuit of new enterprises, was a Welsh drover, about a mile beyond Acton. The fellow, being almost as stout as Mr Pinnis, would not obey the usual precept, but began to lay about him with a good quarterstaff, which he had in his hands. Jack, when he saw Taffy's courage, leaped nimbly out of the way of his staff, and told him that he had been taken once by a son of a whore without hands; "and for that trick," says he, "I shall not venture my carcass within reach of one that has hands, for fear of something worse." While he was speaking he pulled out a pistol, and instantly shot him through the head. Rifling his pockets, and finding but eighteenpence, he said ironically: "This is a prize worth killing a man for at any time." He then rode away about his business, as little concerned as if he had done no mischief at all.

Being again encouraged by a series of successful adventures, and having remounted himself on a very good horse, he was resolved to venture on higher exploits. An opportunity for putting this resolution into practice soon fell in his way, by his meeting the mad Earl of P——, and his chaplain, who was little better than himself, in a coach, with no more attendants than the coachman and one footman. "Stand and deliver!" was the word. His lordship told him that he did not trouble himself about losing the small matter he had about him. "But then," says he, "I hope you will fight for it." Jack, upon this, pulled out a brace of pistols, and let off a volley of imprecations. "Don't put yourself into a passion, friend," says his honour, "but

JACK BIRD

lay down your pistols, and I will box you fairly for all the money I have, against nothing." "That's an honourable challenge, my Lord," quoth Jack, "provided none of your servants be near us." The Earl immediately ordered them to keep at a distance.

The chaplain, like Withrington in the old ballad of *Chevy Chase*, could not bear to see an earl fight on foot while he stood looking on ; so he desired the honour of espousing the cause of his lordship. To which both parties readily agreeing, off went the divinity in a minute, and to blows and bloody noses they came.

Though Jack had once the ill-fortune to be stumped out of his liberty by a sturdy old sailor, he was nevertheless too hard for his Reverence in less than a quarter of an hour. He beat him in such a manner that he could not see, and had but just breath enough to cry : "I'll fight no more." About two minutes after this victory (which he took for a breathing time) Jack told his lordship that now, if he pleased, he would take a turn with him. "By no means," quoth the Earl, "for if you beat my chaplain, you will beat me, he and I having tried our manhood before." So giving our hero twenty guineas, his honour rode off in a whole skin.

While Jack resided in town he married a young woman who had been servant to a dyer near Exeter Exchange, in the Strand. But though Bird was married, he did not confine himself to any one woman ; for we are told that he was continually in company with whores and bawds. One night in particular, having a woman with him, he knocked down a man, between Dutchy Lane and the Great Savoy Gate in the Strand, and, having robbed him, made off safely ; but the woman was apprehended, and sent to Newgate. Jack went to her, in hopes to make up the affair with the prosecutor, and was thereupon taken, on suspicion, and confined with her.

At his trial he confessed the fact, and took it wholly upon himself ; so that the woman was acquitted, and he condemned to suffer death ; which sentence was inflicted on

NEWGATE CALENDAR

him at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 12th of March, 1690, he being forty-two years of age. After execution his body was conveyed to Surgeons' Hall, and there anatomised.

He spoke but very little at the gallows; what he did say consisted chiefly of invectives against lewd women, and advice to young men not to be seduced by their conversation from the rules of virtue and morality.

OLD MOBB

*A Highwayman who took to cheating the Citizens of London.
Executed 30th of May, 1690*

THIS man was born at Ramsey, in Hampshire, which continued to be the place of his habitation, when he resided anywhere under his right name, till the day of his apprehending; and he had a wife and five children, besides grandchildren, living there at the time of his shameful death.

We have no particular account of his education and private life, from whence we may conclude there was nothing remarkable in either. His adventures on the road we shall relate in the order which we have received them, which is the only method we can follow.

Riding one time between Honiton and Exeter, he met with Sir Bartholomew Shower, whom he immediately called to account for the money he had about him. Sir Bartholomew gave him all he had without any words, which proved to be but a very little. Old Mobb looked upon his prize, and finding it infinitely short of his expectations readily told him that there was not enough to answer his present demands, which were very large, and very pressing. "And therefore, sir," says he, "as you are my banker in general, you must instantly draw a bill upon somebody at Exeter for one hundred and fifty pounds, and remain in the next field, as security for the payment, till I have received it." The Knight would fain have made some evasion, and protested that there was nobody in Exeter who would pay such

OLD MOBB

a sum at a moment's warning ; but Old Mobb so terrified him with holding a pistol to his breast that his worship at last consented, and drew upon a rich goldsmith.

As soon as Old Mobb had got the note, he made Sir Bartholomew dismount, and walk far enough from the road to be out of everybody's hearing, then bound him hand and foot and left him under a hedge, while he rode to Exeter, and received the money, which was paid without any scruple, the goldsmith knowing the handwriting perfectly well. When he returned, he found the poor Knight where he left him. "Sir," says he, "I am come with a Habeas Corpus to remove you out of your present captivity"; which he accordingly did by untying him and sending him about his business. But Sir Bartholomew was obliged to walk home, which was fully three miles, for our adventurer had cut the girths and bridle of his horse, and turned him stray, ever since he went to Exeter with the note.

Mr John Gadbury, the astrologer, was another who fell into the hands of Old Mobb, who, notwithstanding his familiarity with the stars, was not wise enough to foresee his own misfortune, which has been a common case with men of his profession. This rencounter was on the road between Winchester and London. Poor Gadbury trembled, and turned as white as a clout, when Old Mobb told him what he wanted, professing that he had no more money about him than just enough to bear his expenses to London ; but our highwayman was not at all moved with compassion at what he said. "Are not you a lying son of a whore," quoth he, "to pretend you want money when you hold twelve large houses of the planets by lease parole, which you let out again to the Stationers' Company at so much per annum? You must not sham poverty upon me, sir, who know as good things as yourself, and who have a pistol that may prove as fatal as Sirius in the dog days, if you stand trifling with me." Mr Gadbury was at this time, indeed, more apprehensive of Old Mobb's pistol than of any star in the firmament ; for he was sensible the influence of it, if discharged, would be much more violent and sudden ; so that

NEWGATE CALENDAR

he looked like one out of his senses. He was now even afraid to deliver his money, lest he should suffer for telling a lie. However, as he saw there was no remedy, he pulled out a bag, in which was about nine pounds in gold and silver, which he gave with a few grumbling expressions. Old Mobb told him he should take no exception at what he said, for it was but just that the loser should have leave to speak, so, setting spurs to his horse, he left the star-gazer to curse the disastrous constellations.

One day Old Mobb overtook the stage-coach going for Bath, with only one gentlewoman in it. When he had commanded the coachman to stop, and was come to the door to raise contribution after his usual manner, the passenger made a great many excuses, and wept very plentifully, in order to move him to pity; she told him she was a poor widow, who had lately lost her husband, and therefore she hoped he would have some compassion on her. "And is your losing your husband then," says he, "an argument that I must lose my booty? I know your sex too well, madam, to suffer myself to be prevailed on by a woman's tears. Those crocodile drops are always at your command; and no doubt but that dear cuckold of yours, whom you have lately buried, has frequently been persuaded out of his reason by their interposition in your domestic debates. Weeping is so customary to you, that everybody would be disappointed if a woman was to bury her husband and not weep for him; but you would be more disappointed if nobody was to take notice of your crying; for according to the old proverb, the end of a husband is a widow's tears; and the end of those tears is another husband."

The poor gentlewoman upon this ran out into an extravagant detail of her deceased husband's virtues, solemnly protesting that she would never be married again to the best man that wore a head, for she should not expect a blessing to attend her afterwards; with a thousand other things of the same kind. Old Mobb at last interrupted her, and told her he would repeat a pleasant story in verse which he had learned by heart, so, first looking round

OLD MOBB

him to see that the coast was clear on every side, he began as follows :—

“ A widow prude had often swore
No bracelet should approach her more ;
Had often proved that second marriage
Was ten times worse than maid’s miscarriage,
And always told them of their sin,
When widows would be wives agen :
Women who’d thus themselves abuse,
Should die, she thought, like honest Jews :
Let her alone to throw the stones ;
If ’twere but law, she’d make no bones.

Thus long she led a life demure ;
But not with character secure :
For people said (what won’t folks say ?)
That she with Edward went astray :
(This Edward was her servant-man)
The rumour through the parish ran,
She heard, she wept, she called up Ned,
Wiped her eyes dry, sighed, sobbed, and said :

‘ Alas ! what sland’rous times are these !
What shall we come to by degrees !
This wicked world ! I quite abhor it !
The Lord give me a better for it !
On me this scandal do they fix ?
On me ? who, God knows, hate such tricks !
Have mercy, Heaven, upon mankind,
And grant us all a better mind !
My husband—Ah that dearest man !
Forget his love I never can ;
He took such care of my good name,
And put all sland’rous tongues to shame.—
But, ah ! he’s dead——’ Here grief amain,
Came bubbling up, and stopped the strain.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Ned was no fool ; he saw his cue,
And how to use good fortune knew :
Old Opportunity at hand,
He seized the lock, and bid him stand ;
Urged of what use a husband was
To vindicate a woman's cause,
Exclaimed against the sland'rous age ;
And swore he could his soul engage
That madam was so free from fault
She ne'er so much as sinned in thought ;
Vowing he'd lose each drop of blood
To make that just assertion good.

This logic, which well pleased the dame,
At the same time eludes her shame :
A husband, for a husband's sake,
Was what she'd ne'er consent to take.
Yet, as the age was so censorious,
And Ned's proposals were so glorious,
She thought 'twas best to take upon her,
A second guardian of her honour."

" This," says Old Mobb, " is an exact picture of woman-kind, and as such I committed it to memory ; you are very much obliged to me for the recital, which has taken me up more time than I usually spend in taking a purse ; let us now pass from the dead to the living, for it is these that I live by. I am in a pretty good humour, and so will not deal rudely by you. Be so kind, therefore, as to search yourself, and use me as honestly as you are able ; you know I can examine afterwards, if I am not satisfied with what you give me." The gentlewoman found he was resolute, and so thought it the best way to keep him in temper, which she did by pulling out forty guineas in a silk purse, and presented them to him. It is fifty to one but Old Mobb got more by repeating the verses above than the poor poet that wrote them ever made of his copy. Such is the fate of the sons of Apollo.

OLD MOBB

Scarce was Old Mobb parted from this gentlewoman before he saw the appearance of another prize at some distance. Who should it be but the famous Lincoln's Inn Fields mountebank, Cornelius a Tilburgh, who was going to set up a stage at Wells. Our adventurer knew him very well, as indeed did almost everyone at that time, which occasioned his demanding his money in a little rougher language than usual. The poor quacksalver was willing to preserve what he had; and to that end used a great many fruitless expostulations, pretending that he had expended all the money he had brought out with him, and was himself in necessity. But Old Mobb soon gave him to understand that he would not be put off with fine words; and that he had more wit than to believe a mountebank, whose profession is lying. "You get your money," says he, "as easily as I do, and it is only fulfilling an old proverb if you give me all you have: 'Lightly come, lightly go.' Next market-day, doctor, will make up all, if you have any luck. It will excite people to buy your packets if, as an instance of your great desire to serve them, you tell them what you suffered upon your journey, which nevertheless could not hinder your coming to exercise your bowels of compassion among them, and to restore such as are in a languishing condition."

The empiric could scarce forbear laughing to hear Old Mobb hold forth so excellently well, and lay open the craft of his occupation with so much dexterity. He was, notwithstanding, very unwilling to part with his money, and began to read a lecture of morality to our desperado, upon the unlawfulness of his actions, telling him that what he did might frequently be the ruin of poor families, and oblige them afterwards to follow irregular courses, in order to make up what they had lost. "And then," says he, "you are answerable for the sins of such people." "This is the devil correcting sin with a witness," quoth Old Mobb. "Can I ruin more people than you, dear Mr Theophrastus Bombastus? You are a scrupulous, conscientious son of a whore, indeed, to tell me of ruining people. I only take their money

NEWGATE CALENDAR

threatening to take away my life. However, if you please, as I don't love to be spiteful, I will make up the matter with you for what money you have in the coach, which, I think, is as easy as you can desire, and easier than you deserve."

Jeffreys expostulated with him, upon the great hazard he ran, both of soul and body, by following such wicked courses, telling him that he must expect justice to follow his crimes if he believed there was any such thing as a Providence that governed the world. "I don't doubt," says Old Mobb, "but that when justice has overtaken us both, I shall stand at least as good a chance as your Lordship; who have already written your name in indelible characters of blood, by putting to death so many hundred innocent men, for only standing up in defence of our common liberties, that you might secure the favour of your Prince. It is enough for you to preach morality upon the Bench, where nobody dares to contradict you; but your lessons can have no effect upon me at this time; for I know you too well not to see that they are only calculated to preserve money." This speech of Old Mobb was followed with fifty oaths and imprecations against the poor Judge, which threatened him with nothing but immediate death if he did not deliver his money. Jeffreys saw his authority would now stand him in no stead; so he gave what money he had, which amounted to about fifty-six guineas.

We took notice at the beginning of this life of Old Mobb that he sometimes was engaged with the Golden Farmer; the reader may therefore justly expect an account of some of their actions in concert; two stories, the most remarkable and diverting that we have seen concerning them, now follow.

Having both of them a pretty deal of ready cash, and being willing to retire a little while from the highway, where they had lately made a great noise, and were now very much sought after, they came to London, in order to make use of their wits, of which they had both as great shares as they had of strength and courage. Here their first work was to observe the humours and manners of the citizens, which neither of them was well acquainted with

OLD MOBB

before, that they might know the better how to proceed, and impose upon them in their own way.

Everyone knows that London is all hurry and noise; every man there is a man of business, and those who make good appearances never want credit. All people there live by mutual dependence upon one another, and he who has dealt for two or three hundred pounds, and made good his payments, may afterwards be trusted for five. Our adventurers soon perceived all this, and what advantages many designing men made of the general confidence that people reposed in each other. They saw that nobody could teach them how to cheat a citizen so well as a citizen himself, and thereupon they concluded that the best way they could take was, to both turn tradesmen.

Each of them now takes a large handsome house, hires two or three servants, and sets up for a great dealer. The Golden Farmer's habitation was in Thames Street, where he passed for a corn chandler, which occupation he had the most knowledge in of any. Old Mobb took up his residence somewhere near the Tower, and called himself a Holland trader, he having been abroad when a boy, and knowing pretty well what commodities were exported to that country, of the language of which he had also a small smattering. They went for near relations, of the name of Bryan, and said they were North Country men.

They now employ all their time in inquiring after goods in their several ways, buying whatever comes to their hands, and either paying ready money themselves, or drawing upon each other for one, two or three days; at which time payment was always punctually made. This constant tide of money was kept up by their continually selling privately what they bought (sometimes, perhaps, not a little to loss) to such persons as are glad to make use of their cash in this manner; and always wink at things which they can't comprehend, while they find their interest in it. As they dealt in very different ways, the chapmen of the one had no knowledge of those of the other; so that though every one of them had been sent at one time or another, by

NEWGATE CALENDAR

his respective customer, to receive money off his kinsman, none of them had any notion that the correspondence was mutual, and consequently no suspicion of a fraud at the bottom.

Thus they continued till they both found their characters thoroughly established. Perhaps in this time they may each of them have lost a hundred or two pounds, but they very well knew that this loss would get them as many thousands. When they saw that all who dealt with them were ready to send in what goods they required, and not in the least care about their money, they thought their project ripe for execution. Accordingly a day was appointed for that purpose.

They now ordered all their customers to bring them in goods on such a day, as much, at least, in quantity, as they had ever before received at one time of the respective sorts, confining them all to particular hours for the delivery of what they brought, that they might not interfere with one another, and so suspect that some unfair design was on foot. At the same time they informed those who usually bought everything off their hands that they should have such-and-such quantities of so many sorts to dispose of, naming the next day to that when they were to receive them ; that they would sell them cheap, because they were obliged to make up a large sum of ready money ; that therefore they desired them to be punctual, and bring only cash for what they designed to buy. The whole scheme succeeded as well as they could wish : on one side there was no suspicion ; and on the other, if there was any, it was not the interest of the parties to discover what they thought, because every one of them promised himself some advantage.

The goods were all delivered according to order, at the day and hour appointed, and notes were mutually drawn by the kinsman in Thames Street upon him by the Tower, and by the kinsman by the Tower upon him in Thames Street, for the several sums, to be paid at three days after date. Never were men better satisfied than these poor dupes, not one of them doubting but he should have all his money

NEWGATE CALENDAR

to their shifts. There was not less art in what they now did than in what we have just related, only they acted in a lower sphere, not daring to aspire so high as to be merchants, after they had brought so much scandal upon the name.

Men whose thoughts are all turned upon money have no regard to the manner in which they get what they desire—nor need they, provided they come off with impunity; for all people honour the rich, without inquiring how they came to be so.

There were two wealthy brothers of the name of Seals, Philip and Charles, both jewellers. Philip lived in London, and Charles resided at Bristol. The Golden Farmer and Old Mobb knew every circumstance of the family from which these men were descended, and were moreover particularly instructed in the private history of our brothers. This made our desperadoes fix on them for their next prize, now they were again reduced to extremity. The brothers were sickly, consumptive men, which inclined these arch-villains to undertake and perform what will be as diverting in the relation as it was unparalleled in itself, and worthy of the men who acted in it.

Having contrived and ordered the whole affair, the first step they took towards executing it was writing, and copying, the following letter, making only the alteration of the place and name, as they saw necessary:—

March 26, 1686.

DEAR BROTHER,—This comes to bring you the sorrowful news that you have lost the best of brothers, and I the kindest of husbands, at a time when we were in hopes of his growing better, as the spring advanced, and continuing with us at least one summer longer. He died this morning, about eleven of the clock, after he had kept his bed only three days.

I send so hastily to you, that you may be here before we prepare for the funeral, which was the desire of my dear husband, who informed me that he had made you joint-executor with me. The will is in my hands, and I shall defer opening it till you arrive here. I am too full of grief

OLD MOBB

to add any more; the messenger, who is a very honest man, and a neighbour of mine, shall inform you of such particulars as are needful from, your sorrowful sister,

— SEALS.

P.S.—I employed a friend to write for me, which I desire you to excuse; for I was not able to do it myself, nor indeed to dictate any more.

These letters being sealed and properly directed, our two adventurers dressed themselves according to the characters they were to bear, and parted from each other; one of them riding towards London, and the other towards Bristol, having so ordered it beforehand that they might both come to the end of their journey at the same time.

They arrived, they delivered their credentials, and were kindly received. It is not to our purpose to declare how many tears were shed upon opening the letters, and how many eulogies each of the living brothers bestowed upon him whom he supposed to be dead. Much less shall we pretend to describe the secret joy which they both concealed under a sorrowful countenance; but which naturally arose in their breasts when they understood that an addition would now accrue to their fortunes by the death of a brother. It is true they both loved one another; but of all love, self-love is the strongest.

The evening at each place was spent in talking over several particulars of the family, subjects that at such a time as this always come in the way. Our messengers were both very expert, and each brother was convinced that the man whom his sister had sent had been long conversant in the family, by the exact account which he gave of things. They moreover added of their own heads a great deal of stuff concerning the manner of the respected Mr Seals' death, and what he said in his last moments, which at this time was doubtless very moving. In a word, the best bed in both houses was made ready for our two sharpers, who were to depart the next morning, and tell the sisters-in-law that their brothers would come two days after, which was as

NEWGATE CALENDAR

soon as their mourning could be made, and other things prepared for the journey.

It may be proper to observe that Old Mobb went to Bristol, and the Golden Farmer to London. The first of these found means in the evening to secure jewels to the value of two hundred pounds, which was all the booty he had any opportunity to make. But the Golden Farmer, having well observed the position of Mr Philip Seals' shop, arose in the night, came silently downstairs, and took to a much greater value; among other things a diamond necklace—which was just made for a lady of the first quality, but not to be delivered till some days after—three very large diamond rings, and five small ones.

In the morning both our adventurers set out, one from Bristol, and the other from London. They met at a place before appointed, and congratulated one another upon their success.

But we must leave them together, and return to the brothers, who were both getting ready for their journey.

Such was the hurry and confusion which our messengers had put the two families in, that nobody in either of them took any notice of the shops, so that nothing of the robberies was discovered in time enough to prevent the masters setting out, and let them see that they were imposed on. The shops were well furnished out, and what was carried off took up but little room; wherefore it was not surprising that such a thing should be overlooked, at a time when no business was thought of but the preparations for travelling, and appearing decently at the funeral.

The merriest part of the whole story was our two brothers setting out the same morning, and coming the same evening to Newbury, where they took up their lodging also at the same inn. He from London came in first, and being fatigued went to bed before the other arrived. The Bristol man, about two hours after, passed through his brother's room, and a companion with him, whom he had engaged to attend him, and reposed themselves where but a thin partition was between the two chambers. Philip, the Londoner, was asleep

TOM KELSEY

when his brother went by him, but the discourse between Charles and his friend surprised him; he could not tell what they talked off; but was certain one of the tongues was his brother's, whom he was going to see buried.

By and by Charles had occasion to go to the necessary house; upon which he rises, and attempts to go through Philip's chamber again, who by the moonlight was still more convinced that he had not been deceived in the voice. Upon this he screamed out, and Charles was now as much surprised as his brother; so that he ran back to bed half dead with fear.

In a word, they both continued sweating, and frightening themselves, till morning, when they arose and dressed themselves in their mourning apparel. Below stairs for some time they shunned one another, till they were taken notice of by the people of the house, who with some difficulty brought them together, after they had heard both their stories. They now saw themselves imposed on, but could not imagine the reason of it, till, after spending two days together at the inn, they both returned, and found themselves robbed. Now was the plot unravelled.

Old Mobb was at last apprehended in Tuthill Street, Westminster, committed to Newgate, and tried at the Old Bailey, on thirty-six indictments, of thirty-two of which he was found guilty.

On Friday, the 30th of May, 1690, he was executed at Tyburn, without making any speech or confession, but continuing to act with his usual intrepidity.

TOM KELSEY

An audacious young Thief who robbed the Tent of King William in Flanders and stabbed a Newgate Turnkey.

Executed 13th of June, 1690

THOMAS KELSEY was born in Leather Lane, in the parish of St Andrew, Holborn; but his mother being a Welsh woman, and she having an estate of about forty pounds per annum, left her by an uncle at Wrexham,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

in Denbighshire, the whole family—which consisted only of the two old people, and this their son—went down thither to live upon it.

Tom was from his infancy a stubborn, untoward brat, and this temper increased as he grew up; so that at fourteen years of age he was prevailed on by one Jones, who has since been a victualler in London, to leave his father and come up to town, in order to seek his fortune. Having neither of them any money, they were obliged to beg their way along in the best English they were masters of. Going one day to a gentleman's house with their complaint, he took a liking to the boys, and received them both into his house: Kelsey in the quality of a horsekeeper and Jones as a falconer. It may be supposed they were both awkward enough in their callings, but Tom's place was the least difficult, so that he kept it the longest, the gentleman being soon weary of his falconer, and glad to send him about his business again.

It was not a great while after, before Tom Kelsey was detected in some little pilfering tricks, and turned out of doors after his companion, whom he could not find when he came to London. His being out of place till he could subsist no longer, and his natural inclination to dishonesty, soon brought him forward in the course of life for which he was afterwards so infamous. He fell into company with thieves, and was as bold and as dexterous in a little time as the best of them, if not even beyond them all.

Going one day by the house of Mr Norton, a silversmith in Burleigh Street, near Exeter 'Change, a couple of his companions came by him like strangers, and one of them snatched off his hat, and flung it into the goldsmith's chamber window, which stood open, running away as fast as they could. Tom, who had a look innocent enough to deceive anybody, made a sad complaint to Mr Norton, who stood at his door and saw all that passed. It happened that at that time there was nobody at home but himself, of which Tom had got intelligence before. "Poor lad!" says Mr Norton, "you shall not lose your hat; go upstairs and

TOM KELSEY

fetch it yourself, for I cannot leave the shop." This was just what Tom wanted; he went up and took his hat, and with it a dozen of silver spoons that lay in his way, coming down in a minute, and making a very submissive bow to Mr Norton for his civility, who let him go without suspicion. This prize was divided between him and his two associates, as is common in such-like cases.

Tom was not, however, so successful in his villainies but that he was condemned to be hanged before he was sixteen years of age. The fact was breaking open the house of one Mr Johnson, a grocer in the Strand, and stealing from thence two silver tankards, a silver cup, six silver spoons, a silver porringer, and forty pounds in money. But he got off this time on account of his youth, and the interest his father made at court; for, hearing of his son's condemnation, the old gentleman came directly up to town, and arrived before the day appointed for his execution, procuring a full pardon by the mediation of some powerful friends.

To prevent his following the same courses again, and exposing himself afresh to the sentence of the law, the old gentleman put his son apprentice to a weaver, but before he had served half-a-year of his time he ran away from his master, and took to his old courses again. It was his pride to make all whom he conversed with as bad as himself, an instance of which appeared in what he did by one David Hughes, a cousin of his by the mother's side. This youth, going to Kingston Assizes along with Tom a few days after he came to town, was prevailed upon by him to pick a pocket in the court; in which action being apprehended, he was immediately tried, and condemned to be hanged upon a gibbet within sight of the Bench, as a terror to others. This week was fatal enough to young Hughes; for he came to London on the Monday, on Tuesday and Wednesday spent and lost ten pounds, which was all the money he had, along with whores and sharpers, on Thursday in the evening picked a pocket, was condemned on Friday morning, and hanged on Saturday. This was the end of one of Kelsey's hopeful pupils, who had the impudence to boast of it.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Another of the actions of this extravagant was his robbing the Earl of Feversham's lodgings. This nobleman was General of the Forces in the reign of King James II., and consequently had a sentinel always at his door. Tom dressed himself in a foot-soldier's habit one evening, and went up to the fellow who was then on duty, asking him a great many questions, and offering at last to stand a drink, if he knew where to get a couple of pots of good beer. The soldier told him there was very good a little beyond Catherine Street, but he durst not leave his post so long as to fetch it. "Can't I take your place, brother soldier?" quoth Tom. "I am sure if somebody be at the post there can be no danger." The soldier thanked him, took the sixpence, and went his way; meanwhile Tom's associates got into the house, and were rifling it as fast as they could. They had not quite done when the soldier came back; whereupon Tom gave him twopence more, and desired him to get a little tobacco also. While the poor fellow was gone for this the villains came out, and Tom went with them, carrying off not only above two hundred pounds worth of plate, but even the soldier's musket. The next day the sentinel was called to account, and committed to prison. At the ensuing court martial he was ordered to run the gauntlet for losing his piece, and then was sent to Newgate, and loaded with irons, on suspicion of being privy to the robbery, where, after nine months' confinement, he miserably perished.

Kelsey, after this, broke open the house of the Lady Grace Pierpont, at Thistleworth, and stole from thence a great many valuable things. But soon after one of his companions impeached him for this fact; whereupon, being informed that the officers were in search after him, he fled to the camp of King William in Flanders. Here he got a considerable booty out of his Majesty's tent, and from other general officers, with which he got to Amsterdam, and sold it to a Jew; whom he also robbed afterwards, and sold what he had gotten to another Jew at Rotterdam, from whence he re-embarked for England.

He had not been long returned to his native country

SIR JOHN JOHNSTON

before he was detected in breaking open the house of a linendraper in Cheapside, which put a final end to his liberty, though not to his villainy, for, being sent to Newgate, and having no hopes of ever getting out any more, unless to go to Tyburn, he grew desperate, and resolved to do all the mischief he could there. Mr Goodman, one of the turnkeys of that jail, being one day drinking in the common-side cellar, Kelsey privately stabbed him in the belly with a knife, of which wound he instantly died. For this murder he received sentence of death at the next session in the Old Bailey, and a gibbet being erected in Newgate Street, near the prison, he was thereon executed, on Friday, the 13th of June, 1690, being then no more than twenty years of age. As a terror to the other prisoners who were then in confinement, his body was suffered to hang on the gibbet the space of three hours.

SIR JOHN JOHNSTON

Executed at Tyburn, 23rd of December, 1690, for assisting to steal an Heiress

SIR JOHN JOHNSTON was born at Kirkcaldy, in Fifeshire. His father had had a good estate, but had diminished it by extravagant living, so Sir John went young into the army to improve his fortune. He went over to Ireland, where he thought to better his circumstances by marriage; and getting into the acquaintance of a Mr Magrath, in the county of Clare, he, by his urbane conversation, so gained his good opinion, that he frequently invited him to dinner. Mr Magrath having a daughter, with ten thousand pounds as her portion, Sir John took every opportunity to insinuate himself into her company, and so far gained upon her affections as to obtain her consent to elope with him; but the father, having some hints given him of their private courtship, kept a very watchful eye over their actions, and at last, being confirmed in his suspicions, forbade Sir John his house, and kept his daughter close.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Miss Magrath being uneasy under her confinement, and deprived of the company of Sir John, whom she loved to distraction, made a kinswoman her confidante, and entrusted her with a letter to Sir John, to let him know how uneasy her life was, and that if he would come to such a place, at a stated time, she would endeavour to make her escape, and meet him. But the lady, thinking she should gain most by obliging her uncle, delivered the letter to him, instead of Sir John. Mr Magrath, having read it, sealed it up again, and sent it to Sir John, who received it with a great deal of satisfaction, and immediately wrote an answer, and returned it by the same messenger. But, repairing to the place of rendezvous, instead of meeting the lady, he fell into an ambuscade of fellows with sticks and clubs, who beat him so unmercifully that he promised to relinquish his pursuit.

Having been in London some time, and spent his money, he was obliged to apply to some of his countrymen for support; and Captain James Campbell, brother of the Earl of Argyll, having a design to steal an heiress, one Miss Mary Wharton, he and Mr Montgomery were assistants in the affair; which being done, and a reward of a hundred pounds offered for the apprehension of Captain Campbell, and fifty pounds a-piece for him and Mr Montgomery—Sir John, being betrayed by his landlord, was apprehended and indicted for it, the 11th of December, 1690. The evidence was, in substance, that Miss Mary Wharton, being an heiress of considerable fortune, and under the care of her guardian (Mr Bierly), was decoyed out on the 10th of November, and being met with by Sir John Johnston, Captain Campbell and Mr Montgomery, in Queen Street, was forced into a coach with six horses (appointed to wait there by Captain Campbell) and carried to the coachman's house, and there married to Captain Campbell, against the consent of herself, or knowledge of her guardian. The jury having found the prisoner guilty, he received sentence of death.

Miss Wharton was the daughter of Philip Wharton, Esq., and at the age of thirteen, by his death, inherited fifteen hundred pounds per annum, besides a personal property

JACK WITHRINGTON

to the amount of one thousand pounds. This young lady resided with her mother in Great Queen Street, and Captain James Campbell, brother of the Earl of Argyll, wishing to possess so rich a prize, determined to marry her perforce, and for that purpose prevailed upon Sir John Johnston and Archibald Montgomery to assist him in conveying Miss Wharton from her home. The enterprise succeeded but too well, to Johnston's cost. Campbell, who was the real culprit, escaped punishment, and married Margaret Leslie, daughter of David Lord Newark, after Parliament had dissolved his first marriage; but every effort to save Johnston proved ineffectual. Miss Wharton afterwards married Colonel Bierly, who commanded a regiment of horse in the service of William III.

At the place of execution, Sir John addressed the spectators in a long speech, in which he not only endeavoured to make it appear he was blameless in the transaction for which he suffered, but that he had been greatly wronged by printed papers, in which he was charged with a rape at Chester, and a similar crime at Utrecht, in Holland. He was executed at Tyburn, the 23rd of December, 1690.

JACK WITHRINGTON

One of five Brothers, all of whom were hanged. He earned Fame for his Courage, challenged the Captain of his Regiment; turned Gamester, Thief and Highwayman. Executed 1st of April, 1691

THIS fellow was the youngest of five brothers, who were all born at Blandford, in Dorsetshire. The other four were all hanged in the country, but Jack had the good fortune to be reserved for Tyburn, and by that means to have his name transmitted to posterity. He was bound to a tanner in Shaftesbury, a town in his native county, with whom he served about three years. Then he entered into the Earl of Oxford's Regiment of Horse, in which, when Monmouth's rebellion was suppressed in the West of

NEWGATE CALENDAR

England, he came up to London, where he soon met with opportunities of discovering his valour to the world. These occasions were two quarrels in which he was engaged: the first with a man famous for fighting, against whom he behaved with so much bravery and skill that it won him a vast reputation; the second with a person of great estate, but a noted coward, when he showed himself a gentleman by his adherence to the point of honour and good breeding. By these duels he won abundance of applause, so as thereby to contract a familiarity with all the greatest fighting men of the time, especially those in his own regiment.

Withrington however carried his manhood so far as to get himself turned out of the regiment within a year after, for challenging his captain. He then became a perfect bully and gamester; and, being fortunate, in a little time by these means saw himself master of a considerable sum of money. Notwithstanding all this good luck at first, he found himself afterwards subject to the fate of gamesters—viz. to be frequently without money in spite of his large winnings.

This brought him at last to consider the uncertainty of Fortune and endeavour to make himself master of her, by supplying with fraud what he might want in plain open skill. But this also did not continue long; for everyone began to be aware of him as a common sharper, and none who knew him would venture to play with him.

In the common scale of knavery the next step above a sharper is a downright thief. Withrington made bold to ascend this degree, and was resolved to take the most honourable station thereon, that of a highwayman. He had money enough to buy him a good horse and accoutrements, so that the resolution and the real attempt were not long asunder. His first adventure was with a farmer, from whom he took forty pounds, giving him in return only an impudent harangue, occasioned by the countryman's reproaching him with the robbery.

The next that fell in Withrington's way was Mr Edward Clark, gentleman usher to the Duchess of Mazarin. They met in Devonshire, on the road between Chudleigh and

JACK WITHRINGTON

Ashburton. Mr Clark made some resistance, so that in the scuffle Withrington's mask fell off and discovered his face, which Mr Clark knowing, he called him by his name, and said he hoped he would not rob an old acquaintance. "Indeed I shall, sir," quoth Withrington, "for you get your money much easier than I do, who am forced to venture my life for a maintenance; you have so much a year for eating, drinking and entertaining your lady with scandal and nonsense. What I shall take from you will do you little harm; it is only putting a higher price upon half-a-score reputations, which you know how to do as well as any coxcomb in England. Ladies never let such faithful servants go unrewarded, nor will yours suffer your loss to fall on yourself." He got about eight guineas out of this gentleman's pocket, and for old acquaintance sake bade him "Good-b'w'ye" very heartily.

Withrington's robberies in less than a year and a half were talked of almost all over the kingdom. But alas! he met with a diversion, common to mankind, that draws even the most stupid into the rank of polite persons. The poor man was in love; and with whom but a rich widow inn-keeper in Bristol! Farewell to the highway: Withrington has another scent to pursue. No more robberies to be thought of from a man who was himself robbed of his heart! He employed an old bawd in the affair, who was intimately acquainted with our hostess, and by this flesh-broker's mediation things had like to have come to an issue, and Jack to have been master of the Swan Inn. In short, there was nothing prevented it but the accidental coming of a certain gentleman, who knew our highwayman, and informed his mistress what he was. The effects of this discovery were Jack's being kicked out of doors by the ostler and chamberlain, and the commitment of madam the negotiatress to Bridewell, in order to mill Dolly.

After his return to the highway he and one of his companions met with Mr Thompson, a noted tailor, in a part of Hertfordshire that was convenient for robbing. They took from him about thirty pounds in silver, and then,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

dismounting him, they ordered him to stay where he was till they brought him more company. As soon as they were gone from him he remounted his horse and attempted to ride off as fast as he could ; but our highwaymen perceiving what he was at, and having the best horses, they fetched him back, and mistrusting he had more money, by his being in so much haste, they searched him afresh, he protesting all the while that he had not so much as a farthing left if it were to save his soul. In a literal sense he might be right ; but they made a shift to find forty guineas, which they thought better than farthings. Withrington upon this exclaimed that it was a sad thing that one Christian could not believe another ! They then shot his horse, to put a stop to his speed, and so rode away and left him.

The last robbery Withrington committed was alone. He stopped a nobleman on Hounslow Heath attended by two footmen. There was a short dispute, but Withrington having the best of it, he took a portmanteau in which were two hundred and eighty guineas, sixty pounds in silver, and a parcel of fine linen. A hue and cry was soon issued out after him, and he was apprehended by means of it at Malmesbury, in Wiltshire, from whence he was removed to London, where he was condemned for this fact.

The sentence of death seemed to have no effect on his temper, for he was as gay and humorous under that circumstance as ever he had been before. When he was riding up Holborn Hill he ordered the cart to stop, and calling up the Sheriff's deputy, " Sir," said he, " I owe a small matter at the Three Cups, a little farther on, for which I am afraid of being arrested as I go by the door ; therefore I shall be much obliged to you if you will be pleased to carry me down Shoe Lane and bring me up Drury Lane again into the road by which I am to travel this devilish long journey." The deputy informed him that if such a mischance should happen he should come to no damage. " For," says he, " I'll be bail for you myself, rather than you shall go back to prison again." " Thank you heartily, sir," quoth Jack ; " I protest I could not have thought that I had a friend in

JACOB HALSEY

the world who would have stood by me so in such a time of need." After this he rode very contentedly to the place of execution, where he was tucked up with as little ceremony as usual. This fatal day was Wednesday, the 1st of April, in the year 1691.

JACOB HALSEY

*The Quaker Highwayman, who after being fooled by a
"Spirit" led a Life of Crime, and was executed
at Maidstone in April, 1691*

JACOB HALSEY was born in Bedford, the chief town in Bedfordshire, of very wealthy parents, who were Quakers, and accordingly bred him up in that persuasion from his infancy.

When he was arrived at man's estate he pretended to be wonderfully gifted, and the spirit abounded so powerfully in him that he frequently held forth in the meetings of the Friends twice or thrice a week. Nay, he either pretended to be, or was, so very enthusiastically given, that he affirmed, with all the gravity imaginable, that he nightly dreamed dreams and saw visions, and had sundry comfortable and enlightening revelations.

Hereupon one of his neighbours, an arch unlucky weed, resolved to put Halsey's faith, or rather folly, to the test whether he really believed what he pretended to affirm and preach to others; which brought poor Jacob into a very ugly scrape, as we shall see in the sequel; for this neighbour, getting upon the house one night when it was very late, called out twice or thrice, with a loud voice, to Halsey: "Jacob, where art thou?" Halsey, at last hearing the voice, starts out of his bed naked, and, running to the window whence the voice seemed to come, cries out: "Here am I! Oh, what is thy will?" Quoth the wag in the same voice, who could hardly forbear laughing: "Arise presently, Jacob, my beloved, my chosen one, and go to the church, or rather steeple-house, and break all the windows."

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Immediately Halsey hurries on his clothes, gets a long pole, runs to the church, and demolishes all the windows, lead and all; zeal being never so well pleased as when it is set a-tearing and doing mischief. But poor Yea-and-Nay suffered severely in the flesh for this zealous fit; for, being taken in the fact, he was committed to Bedford Jail, and before the matter was made up it cost him above four hundred pounds, between the charges of the Spiritual Court and at common law.

He was above three months under confinement, during which time, being a facetious sort of a fellow—what we call a “wet Quaker”—he would drink and keep company, notwithstanding his persuasion, with the felons in Bedford Jail, asking them several questions, and being very inquisitive in examining into the art and mystery of thieving. There was one rogue more acute than the rest, with whom he would daily converse, and one time, as they were drinking together, he acquainted him with the several lays which the thieves went upon, and amongst the rest informed him of a set of rascals who wore cloaks and hats cocked up on one side, with a plume of feathers on the other, whence their fraternity received the name of “Plumers.”

The exercise of these gentry by daytime was to stroll about the streets and create quarrels upon nothing, only to draw a crowd together, that they might twitch a cloak, or pick a pocket, among the confused multitude. But in the night they had recourse to a different method of practice. Some of them had the industry to insinuate themselves into gentlemen's company and, enticing them to play, pick their pockets of their money by new-invented cheats. These had the policy to keep so fair a correspondence with the constables and justices' clerks that they very seldom underwent any disgrace or punishment, unless they encountered some very powerful adversary, whose purse was not only better lined than theirs, but who had interest enough to make even the justices' commission shake if they offered to protect or screen them, as those trading justices always do who go snacks with their clerks.

JACOB HALSEY

In short, after this thief had acquainted Halsey with the chief secrets of his calling and profession, he took the liberty of asking him if none of them apprehended hanging. "Scarce any of us," answered he, "ever suffer such a thing to enter into our thoughts; so far from it that we frequently are present at the execution of our comrades, without the least fear or terror; for nothing dazzles our eyes or is capable of moving our hearts like the insatiate thirst of invaluable gold."

As soon as he was set at liberty, Halsey, being sensible how he had been imposed upon in the affair of the voice which commanded him to break the church windows, was very much ashamed of his ridiculous folly, and would willingly have had it forgotten; but the people flouted him, and jeered him continually, throughout the town of Bedford. Nay, what was worst of all, he could never appear in the streets or go about his business without having a whole tribe of boys and girls hollowing and hooting after him. This exasperated him so much at last, that, being weary of his life, he was resolved to quit the country, and be revenged of all the churchmen that fell into his clutches, though it were at the hazard of his own neck.

He resolved then upon following the road; and, in order thereunto, metamorphosed his cropped hair into a peruke, his formal hat to one pinched and cocked, his diminutive cravat to a ranting neckcloth, and his precise coat, without plaits, to one more fashionable, designing to hide his knavery as much as he possibly could by such an alteration. But nevertheless, even under this disguise, he would always rob in the language of the lambs.

Accordingly, one day, meeting with an old wicked usurer of Bedford, between Barnet and St Albans, he rode on with him very peaceably for three or four miles; when, coming to a convenient place for his intended purpose, "Look thee, friend," says he, "I am not like one of those profane ones, who spoil men in the terrifying words of 'Stand and deliver.' No, I say again, I am not one of that wicked stamp, but an Israelite that spoils an Egyptian with

NEWGATE CALENDAR

all the good humour, peace and quietness in the world ; so open thy purse-strings straight, and lend what thou hast, without any grumbling."

The old usurer, not liking this mild way of parting with his mammon any more than that of being more roughly handled, refused Jacob his money, and made great resistance ; whereupon Halsey shot his horse, and after taking from him about sixty pounds, resolving to punish him yet further, for moving his righteous spirit to wrath, made him cast his arms about a large elm-tree, and bound them fast together with a strong cord. This done, he left him to stretch out his neck like the cock of a conduit, whose head, not being fixed to the body, may be set higher or lower at pleasure, and look out to see when some good person would come by and deliver him.

Another time, Jacob, overtaking a country curate between Abingdon and Oxford, accosts him in this manner : " Friend, imagining thee to be some Philistine going to spoil an honest Israelite for tithes, I must make bold to spoil thee first ; wherefore, thou wicked one, deliver thy mammon to the righteous, that he may convert it to a better use than to exhaust it in gluttony and pride, otherwise I shall send thee to the bottomless pit before thy time is come by the course of nature." The parson made several hums upon the matter, but finding the resolute Quaker would not be said nay, gave him a bag containing thirty-two pounds, after which they parted.

Jacob was at last apprehended in attempting to rob the Earl of Westmorland, not far from his seat near Watlingbury, in Kent, and being committed to Maidstone Jail, was condemned at the assizes held there in April, 1691, and executed a few days afterwards.

WILL MACQUEER

*Who stole the Lord Chancellor's Mace and delighted in
robbing Army Officers on the Highway. Executed
at Tyburn, 1st of May, 1691*

THIS notorious offender was the bastard son of an Irish priest, and born at Athenrea, in the county of Galway and province of Connaught in Ireland. Coming young to England and not readily falling into any business was the occasion of his first taking to ill courses, he being exposed, as most idle fellows are, to bad company, which is the most common introduction to thieving, and as it were the first step towards Tyburn.

The first of William Macqueer's offences was a burglary committed at Brentwood, in Essex, in company with three more. They entered a gentleman's house there, stole four diamond rings; a very large quantity of plate, and six hundred pounds in money. Not long after this he and one more broke open the Lord Chancellor Jeffreys' house, in Duke Street, Westminster, whence they carried off the purse and mace belonging to his office. Macqueer has been often heard to boast how he made his companion carry the two prizes before him through the park in the same manner as they were carried before the Chancellor, while he walked in state behind them, and swelled as much as any country cobbler could do when he arises to the dignity of mayor of his borough. The next morning early there was a terrible hue and cry after these ensigns of dignity, which Macqueer had secured in his closet at his lodgings, going out all day to hear what would be the event of the inquiry. The maid going up that day to clean his chamber found a small jewel on the floor, which had been dropped from the purse. This she instantly carried down to her master, who having heard the news that day, and not liking his lodger very well before, began to suspect what afterwards appeared to be the truth. For, sending for a constable and breaking open the door, they found both the mace and the purse, which were the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

same day restored to the Chancellor. Macqueer informed himself abroad of all that had happened, and never came near his landlord and house again till he broke it open about a quarter of a year after and stole away as many goods as were valued at eighty pounds, by way of revenge for what was done.

Nothing would serve him now but the highway, and he was resolved to be furnished with accoutrements at the expense of the public. He stole a good horse and saddle out of the stable of one Councillor Thursby, in Burleigh Street, in the Strand; and a pair of pistols he got from Mr Robert Williams, a gunsmith in George Yard, Westminster. Thus equipped he set out.

There was at that time a poet, whose name was Alexander Oldys, a man as deformed as Æsop, and so small that there was hardly such another to be seen. It was the fate of our bard to meet Macqueer between Hammersmith and Brentford, when he was accosted with the customary salutation. He now found he was got into other company than that of the Muses, and began to apprehend that his sword would do him small service against a pistol, upon which he gave Teague all the money he had, amounting in whole, as it is reported, to no more than threepence-farthing. We are certain the sum did not satisfy Macqueer, who deprived him of his sword also, in a most ungentlemanly manner; which loss was the cause of greater grief to our bard than any other affliction he could have suffered, except that of being obliged never to write any more verses.

Not long after, Macqueer met the Lady Auverquerque coming from the bath in a coach-and-six, stopped her, and desired her to lend him what money she had about her, because he had at that time great occasion; promising her to pay the whole again very honestly at their next encounter, and offering to give his bond if she demanded it. "I believe," says the lady, "you had as good tell me at once you are come to rob me, for this is an odd way of borrowing." "I am a stranger in this country," the Irishman said, "and so if I don't know the difference between robbing

WILL MACQUEER

and borrowing, you must excuse me; for all I mean is, give me your money." The lady told him it was well he had explained himself at last, and so gave him her gold watch, two diamond rings and what money she had. He then shot two of the coach horses and the horses of two footmen that attended, and so rode off with his booty as fast as he could.

Macqueer took a particular delight in robbing the officers of the army, because he imagined that in so doing he gave a greater proof of his valour than he could by any other means.

The first he robbed was one Mr Adams, a lieutenant of the Second Regiment of Foot Guards, whom he met between Uxbridge and Beaconsfield. The lieutenant, being stopped before he was aware, gave our highwayman very good words; but perceiving that Macqueer was not to be talked out of his booty delivered six pounds to him, out of which Macqueer gave him back ten shillings to bear his charges.

Another officer whom he robbed was Captain Shooter, a man of bravery and resolution, who would not tamely part with what he had, and had like to have made our highwayman pay dearly for his affected courage. Their meeting was on Hampstead Heath, where they fired several pistols at each other without doing any damage on either side. They then rode up together, with their swords drawn, and made a great many pushes. Macqueer had certainly been worsted at this exercise if he had not bethought himself of another pistol in his breeches' pocket, which he pulled out and discharged suddenly through the captain's head, when he apprehended nothing but the sword. He got at least fifty guineas and a silver watch by this murder.

The last robbery he was concerned in was in company with William Selwood, *alias* Jenkins, another old offender. They took two hundred and fifty guineas from one Mr Benjamin Watts on Hounslow Heath. For this fact they were both taken, condemned, and on Friday, the 1st of May, 1691, executed together at Tyburn, Macqueer being in the twenty-eighth year of his age.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

TOM COX

*A Handsome Highwayman who robbed the King's Jester
and even held up Men of his own Trade.*

Executed 3rd of June, 1691

THOMAS COX was born at Blandford, in Dorsetshire. He was the youngest son of a gentleman, so that, having but a small patrimony, he soon consumed it in riotous living. Upon the decay of his fortune he came up to London, where he fell in with a gang of highwaymen, and easily complied with their measures in order to support himself in his dissolute course of life. He was three times tried for his life before the last fatal trial, and had, after all these imputations, a prospect once more of making himself a gentleman, so indulgent was Providence to him. A young lady fell in love with him at Worcester, he being a very handsome man, and she went so far as to communicate her passion, and almost make him a direct offer of herself and fifteen hundred pounds. Cox married her; but instead of settling himself in the world, and improving her fortune, he spent it all in less than two years, broke the poor gentleman's heart with his ill-usage, and then took to his old courses again.

The robberies he committed after this were almost innumerable. One day he met with Killigrew, who had been jester to King Charles II., and ordered him to deliver. "Are you in earnest, friend?" said the buffoon. Tom replied: "Yes, by G—d am I! for though you live by jesting, I can't." Killigrew found he spoke truth; for well as he loved jesting, he could not conceive that to be a jest which cost him twenty-five guineas; for so much Tom took from him.

Another time he robbed Mr Hitchcock, an attorney of New Inn, of three hundred and fifty guineas, on the road between Midhurst and Tetworth, in the county of Sussex, giving him in return a lesson on the corruption of his practice, and throwing him a single guinea to bear his charges.

TOM COX

Mr Hitchcock was a little surprised at the highwayman's generosity, but more at his morality, imagining the world must needs be near its end when the devil undertook to reform it.

Our offender was at last apprehended for a robbery on the highway, committed near Chard, in Somersetshire. But he had not been long confined in Ilchester Jail before he found an opportunity of escaping. He broke out of his ward into the keeper's apartment, who, as good luck would have it, had been drunk overnight, and was now in a profound sleep. It was a moonlight night, and Cox could see a silver tankard on a table in the room, which he secured, and then let himself out with authority into the street, by the help of the keys, leaving the doors all unlocked as he passed. The tankard he had stolen was worth ten pounds, and besides that he got into a stable just by and took a good horse, with proper furniture, to carry him off.

It is reported of Tom Cox that he more than once robbed persons of his own trade. Indeed there is an old proverb that "Two of a trade can't agree"; but it must certainly be a very dangerous thing for highwaymen to make so bold one with another, because every one of them is so much exposed to the revenge of the rest; and as Cox sometimes robbed in company, it discovers that he was not an unsociable thief.

Tom's last robbery was on a farmer, from whom he took about twenty pounds. It was not above a week after the fact before the said farmer came to London on business and saw Tom come out of his lodgings in Essex Street, in the Strand; whereupon crying out "Stop, thief," he was immediately apprehended in St Clement's Churchyard, and committed by a neighbouring magistrate to Newgate, where he lived till the sessions in an extravagant manner, being very full of money. Receiving sentence of death on the farmer's deposition at Justice Hall on Wednesday, the 3rd day of June, 1691, he was hanged at Tyburn, in the twenty-sixth year of his age. He was so resolute to the last that when Mr Smith, the ordinary, asked him, a few moments

NEWGATE CALENDAR

before he was turned off, whether he would join with his fellow-sufferers in prayer—"D—n you, no!" says he, and kicked both ordinary and executioner out of the cart.

JACK COLLET *ALIAS* COLE

Highwayman, who robbed in the Habit of a Bishop.

Executed at Tyburn, 5th of July, 1691, for

Sacrilegious Burglary

THIS unfortunate person was the son of a grocer in the borough of Southwark, where he was born, and from whence, at fifteen years of age, he was put out apprentice to an upholsterer in Cheapside. He did not serve above four years of his time before he ran away from his master and took to the highway. We have not an account of abundance of his robberies, though it is said he committed a great many; but there is this remarkable particular recorded of him, that he frequently robbed in the habit of a bishop, with four or five of his companions at his heels in the quality of servants, who were ready to assist him on occasion.

Collet had once the ill fortune to lose his canonical habit at dice, so that he was forced to take a turn or two on the road to supply his present necessities in unsanctifying garments. But it was not long before he met with a good opportunity of taking orders again and becoming as holy as ever. Riding from London down into Surrey, a little on this side of Farnham, he met with Dr Mew, Bishop of Winchester, and commanded his coachman to stop. The Bishop was not at all surprised at being asked for his money, because when he saw his coach stopped he expected that would follow. But when Collet told him he must have his robes too, his lordship thought him a madman. There was no resisting, however; the old doctor was obliged to strip into his waistcoat, besides giving him about fifty guineas, which Collet told him he had now a right to demand, by having the sacerdotal habit in his possession.

Collet followed this trade till he was about thirty-two

TOM WATERS

years of age, and, as if he had been determined to live by the Church, he was at last apprehended for sacrilege and burglary, in breaking open the vestry of Great St Bartholomew's, in London, in company with one Christopher Ashley, *alias* Brown, and stealing from thence the pulpit cloth and all the communion plate. For this fact he received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on Friday, the 5th of July, in the year 1691. This Brown and Collet had before robbed St Saviour's Church, in Southwark, in conjunction.

TOM WATERS

*Highwayman, who held up Gipsies, robbed a Vice-Admiral,
and was executed on 17th of July, 1691*

THOMAS WATERS was born of very reputable parents at Henley-on-Thames, in Oxfordshire. His father and mother both died when he was very young, and left him to the care of an uncle, who put him apprentice to a Notary-Public behind the Royal Exchange. But business was what his mind was not turned for, and the servitude of seven years appeared to him a grievous thing; whereupon he gave himself a discharge without the leave of his master before he had served half the term. What little money he had was soon expended, and he was exposed to the wide world, without any visible way of getting a living in it. These circumstances soon inclined him to apply himself to the highway, as the only method he could see of supporting himself.

His first exploit was on about twenty or thirty gipsies, whom he saw near Bromley, in Kent, as they were coming one morning early out of a barn, where they had lain all night. He rode up to them and commanded them to stand, threatening to shoot half-a-score of them through the head if they did not obey his command instantly. These strollers were pretty patient thus far; but when he ordered them to draw their purse-strings they set up an outcry as terrible as the "Hololoo" of the wild Irish when they lose

NEWGATE CALENDAR

a cock or a hen. The being robbed on the highway was something new to them, who had all their lives long been used to defraud everyone they met with. Some of them entreated his pity and compassion in a miserable tone. Others began to tell his fortune, promising him abundance of riches, and everything else they could think of that was desirable, and bestowing on him more blessings than the Pope would have sold for all the wealth they had to lose. Tom was not so superstitious at this time as to take notice either of their predictions or their blessings; he wanted the ready money, for the old proverb that "One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" was one of his darling maxims.

When our tribe of jugglers found he was resolutely bent upon taking what they had, they began to empty their pockets of a large quantity of silver spoons, tasters, gold rings, etc., which they either stole or persuaded some of the silly country people to give them for having their fortunes told. These movables, together with what money they produced, amounted in all to sixty pounds.

One time he met with an ostler on the road from Yorkshire to London, who was once like to have betrayed him at an inn in Doncaster. This fellow had saved together forty pounds and was coming to town in order to improve it, either by jockeying or keeping an ale-house—the two ways his countrymen commonly apply themselves to. Tom knew him again, and the remembrance of such a gross affront was enough to make him a little rough; however, he promised to spare his life, though he did not deserve such a favour, if he delivered what he had without words. The ostler was conscious of what he had done and so he surrendered.

Another of Waters's adventures was with Sir Ralph Delaval, at that time Vice-Admiral of the English Fleet, whom he knew very well. The meeting was on the road between Portsmouth and Petersfield. "Well overtaken, Brother Tar," quoth Tom; "pray what religion are you of?" Sir Ralph stared at him, and seemed astonished at his impudence. "What business have you," says he, "to inquire about my religion?" "Nay, Sir Ralph," Waters replied,

MOLL JONES

"I had only a mind to ask a civil question, because I have been informed that you sailors have no religion at all. But since you are so crusty upon this head, give me leave to ask you another thing. Pray do you apprehend you shall be robbed before you come to the end of your journey?" "Not at all," quoth the Admiral, "I have my footman behind me." "Now there you and I are of two opinions," says Tom, "for I believe you will be robbed very quickly." While he was speaking his pistols were out, and master and man were threatened with death if they offered to stir hand or foot. In this condition the Knight thought it his best way to save his life by delivering his money; which he did, to the tune of ninety guineas, besides a gold watch.

For the space of five years and upwards Tom continued his robberies, during which time he committed an almost incredible number. His last robbery was on Hounslow Heath, a place where almost all of them at one time or another try their fortunes. He took from one John Hosey, a Bristol carrier, above fourteen hundred pounds in money and plate, some of which latter was found on him when he was apprehended. For this fact he received sentence of death; and being conveyed to Tyburn in a coach, on Friday, the 17th day of July, in the year 1691, he was there executed, in the twenty-sixth year of his age, going off the stage in a very resolute manner.

MOLL JONES

Who became a Shoplifter for Love of her Husband.

Executed at Tyburn 18th of December, 1691

MARY JONES was born in Chancery Lane, where her parents lived in a great deal of credit. She was brought up to the making of hoods and scarves at the New Exchange in the Strand. She married an apprentice, whom she loved extremely, and whose extravagances were thought to be the first occasion of her taking to a dishonest course of life; for as he was not in a capacity to get any

NEWGATE CALENDAR

money himself, she was willing to do anything in order to furnish him with whatever he wanted, being fond of having him always appear like a gentleman. The first species of thieving she took to was picking pockets.

One day, meeting near Rosamond's Pond, in St James's Park, with one Mr Price, a milliner, keeping shop in the same Exchange in which she was bred, Moll pretended to ask him some questions about Mrs Zouch, a servant of his, who had murdered her bastard child; whereupon he pulled out a tin trumpet, which he usually carried in his pocket to hold to his ear, being so very deaf that he could not hear otherwise. Whilst he was earnestly hearkening to what Moll said to him through this vehicle, she picked a purse out of his breeches in which were fifteen guineas and a broad-piece. Mr Price never missed it till he came home, and then where to find her he could not tell.

Shortly after this she was apprehended for picking the pocket of one Mr Jacob Delafay, a Jew, who was chocolate-maker to King James II. and King William III., and lived over against York Buildings in the Strand. For this fact she was committed to Newgate and burned in the hand; which punishment making her out of conceit with the trade of diving or filing, she turned shoplifter, in which she was very successful for three or four years; at the end of which, privately stealing half-a-dozen pairs of silk stockings from one Mr Wansel, a hosier in Exeter 'Change, she was detected actually committing the theft by one Smith, a victualler, at the Rose and Crown ale-house, over against the little Savoy Gate in the Strand, who was buying a pair of stockings there at the same time. This Smith, being a constable, seized her, and carrying her before Justice Brydal, he committed her to Newgate, after which she was burned in the hand again.

Still following the art and mystery of shoplifting, she was apprehended for privately stealing a piece of satin out of a mercer's shop on Ludgate Hill, whither she went in a very splendid equipage and personated the late Duchess of Norfolk, to avoid suspicion of her dishonesty; but her graceless Grace being sent to Newgate, and condemned for

TOM TAYLOR

her life at the Old Bailey, she was hanged at Tyburn in the twenty-fifth year of her age, on Friday, the 18th day of December, in the year 1691.

TOM TAYLOR

Who, getting literally hooked as a Pickpocket, turned House-breaker. Executed 18th of December, 1691, for using Arson as a means to Theft

TOM TAYLOR, a parson's son, was born at Colchester, in Essex; who, accustoming himself to gaming from twelve years of age, was so addicted to idleness that he would not be brought up to any honest employment. Furthermore, rejecting the good counsel of his parents, and joining himself to bad company, he soon got into a gang of pick-pockets, with whom he often went out to learn their evil profession and find the ready way to the gallows. Going once, with three or four of these diving sparks, to Guildford, a market-town in Surrey, where there was next day a fair to be kept, and fearing to be discovered in that concourse of so many people, they resolved to do their business that very evening, when the people were very busy in fitting up their stalls, and some little trading was stirring besides. Their first consultation was how to draw the folks together to make one job of it, which was agreed on in this manner. Tom Taylor, pretending to be an ignorant clown, got his head into the pillory, which was elevated near the market-house, as if he had only a mind to be laughed at. The noise thereof causing the whole town to run together to see this spectacle, his companions so plied their work, while the people gazed, laughed and stared, that they left but few of them any money in their pockets. Nay, the very keeper of the pillory, who was as well pleased at this curious sight as anybody, was served in the same manner with the rest.

Tom seeing the work was done, and having the sign given him that his comrades were departing, came down from his wooden machine; whereupon the company dispersed

NEWGATE CALENDAR

themselves. A little while after, some of them clapping their hands into their pockets, they cried out with one voice that their pockets were picked, while in the confusion Tom slunk away to his companions, who were out of the reach of apprehension.

At last, Taylor being pretty expert at picking of pockets, he set up for himself; and one day going to the playhouse in Drury Lane, very well dressed, he seated himself by a gentleman in the pit, whose pocket he picked of about forty guineas, and went clean off. This good success tempted Tom to go thither the next day in a different suit of clothes, when, perceiving the same gentleman in the pit whose pocket he had picked but the day before, he takes his seat by him again. The gentleman was so sharp as to know his face again, for all his change of apparel, though he seemed to take no notice of him; whereupon putting a great quantity of guineas into the pocket next Tom, it was not long before he fell to diving for them. The gentleman had sewed fishing-hooks all round the mouth of that pocket, and our gudgeon venturing too deep, by unconscionably plunging down to the very bottom, his hand was caught and held so fast that he could in no manner of way disentangle it.

Tom angled up and down in the pocket for nearly a quarter of an hour; the gentleman, all the while feeling his struggling to get his hand out, took no notice, till at last Tom, very courteously pulling off his hat, quoth: "Sir, by a mistake, I have somehow put my hand into your pocket instead of my own." The gentleman, without making any noise, arose and went to the Rose Tavern at the corner of Bridget Street, and Tom along with him, with his hand in his pocket, where it remained till he had sent for some of his cronies, who paid down eighty guineas to get the gudgeon out of this dry pond. However, the gentleman, being not altogether contented with this double satisfaction for his loss, most unmercifully caned him, and then turning him over to the mob, they as unmercifully pumped him and ducked him in a horse-pond, and after that so cruelly used him that they broke one of his legs and an arm.

HENRY HARRISON

Tom meeting with such bad usage in his first setting up for himself, he was so much out of conceit with the trade of picking pockets that he left it quite off and followed house-breaking; in which kind of villainy he was so notorious that he had committed above sixty felonies and burglaries in the county of Middlesex only in less than fourteen months. He reigned eight years in his crimes; but at length, setting a barn on fire betwixt Brentford and Austirly, a little village lying about a mile north from that town, while the servants came from the dwelling-house to quench it he ran up into a chamber, pretending to help to preserve the goods, but ran away with a trunk in which was a great deal of plate and a hundred and forty pounds in money. He was apprehended before he got to Hammersmith, where, being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate; and receiving sentence of death at the Old Bailey, when about twenty-nine years of age, he was hanged at Tyburn on Friday, the 18th day of December, in the year 1691.

HENRY HARRISON, GENT.

*Sentenced to Death 6th of April, 1692, for strangling
Dr Clenche in a Coach*

HENRY HARRISON, gent., appeared at the Old Bailey on 6th of April, 1692, charged with murdering (with the assistance of some person unknown) Dr Andrew Clenche, by strangling him in a coach. According to witnesses Dr Clenche had advanced one hundred and twenty pounds to Mrs Vanwicke, a widow, on a mortgage, and when a trustee for her and her children, named Rowe, was unable to meet his covenants, the doctor served an ejectment order on the tenant of the house under mortgage. This incensed Harrison, who was a friend of Mrs Vanwicke.

Mrs Mary Sheriff deposed that Mrs Vanwicke and Mr Harrison came to her house; and Mrs Vanwicke desired the deponent to go with her to Dr Clenche, which she

NEWGATE CALENDAR

did; and Mrs Vanwicke desiring the doctor to let her have twenty pounds more, he said he would lend her no more so long as she kept company with Harrison, for he would spend it; and told her he would recommend her to be some gentleman's housekeeper, and that though she owed him one hundred and twenty pounds he would take one hundred pounds. That when they returned to the deponent's house, Mrs Vanwicke told Mr Harrison what the doctor said; and Mr Harrison answered: "God d—n him! Would he have a person of your quality go to service? He deserves to have his throat cut"; and added: "Let me alone; I'll manage him as never man was managed," and then Mrs Vanwicke and Harrison went away together. That Mr Harrison was always talking against the doctor, and said he was an old rogue, and Mrs Vanwicke was almost starved to death.

John Giles, coachman, deposed that on Monday, the 4th of January, he set down a fare at the Green Dragon in Fleet Street about nine in the evening, and was driving from thence towards the Temple, when two men, who stood about Fetter Lane end, asked him if he knew Dr Clenche, who lived in Brownlow Street, in Holborn. And the deponent saying he knew the street, they came into his coach, and he drove them to the end of Brownlow Street; and one of them bade him go and tell the doctor two gentlemen in a coach desired him to go with them to see one who was not well. That the doctor asked the deponent if he knew them, but he said he did not; and the doctor dressed himself (being before in his gown and slippers); and when he came to the coach, one of the men removed and gave him the hinder part of the coach, and bade the deponent drive to Leadenhall Market: and when he came about Holborn Bars, one of them bade him drive faster, which he did, and came to Leadenhall. Then one of them bade him drive to the Pye Tavern without Aldgate, where they bade him ask for one Hunt, a surgeon; but no such person was there. Then one of them bade him drive back to Leadenhall, and Aldgate being shut they gave the watch sixpence to open it; and when he stopped again at Leadenhall Gate

HENRY HARRISON

one of them gave him three shillings and sixpence and bade him buy a couple of fowls of Hunt, the poulterer; but not being able to find such a man, he bought them of another; and coming back to his coach he found Dr Clenche (as he thought) sitting against the fore-seat, with his head against the cushion: that he pulled him and called to him, but could not get a word from him; and, calling the watch, he found he was strangled with a handkerchief about his neck, and a coal in it, placed just upon his windpipe; but the other two men were gone. That he could not tell what clothes the prisoner had on, but one of them had a light wig, and he verily believed it was the prisoner, and that the other person was taller, and wore his own hair.

Mrs Ashbolt deposed that, being sent out on an errand the night Dr Clenche was murdered, she saw a coach stop at Brownlow Street end between nine and ten o'clock, and one in the coach bade the coachman go and tell Dr Clenche that two gentlemen waited for him in a coach, and one of them leaned out of the coach and swore at the coachman as he was going that he made no more haste. That the deponent went round the coach and could discern Mr Harrison's face, and she saw Dr Clenche go into the coach, and one of them gave his place to the doctor.

MR DARNEL (prosecuting): Tell us how you came to be so curious, and what you observed further.

MRS ASHBOLT: I thought they would give the coachman the slip; and I clearly observed Mr Harrison, there being a lamp burning on each side the coach, which lighted quite through; and when the men saw me look at them they pulled themselves back. Afterwards, when Madam Clenche desired me to go see Mr Harrison in Newgate, I knew the voice to be one of those who were in the coach, as he was talking very loud, before I came into the room, and I told the company so that were with me. And I knew the prisoner to be one of those who were in the coach as soon as I saw him.

But Mr Darnel produced a record to prove that Baker, one of the prisoner's witnesses, was convicted of cheating the parish of St Giles's when he was a scavenger, by altering

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the figures in the book and then extorting greater sums from the parishioners than they ought to pay, and he called two other witnesses, who deposed that Maccaffee, another of Harrison's witnesses, kept a very disorderly house, where thieves and housebreakers and lewd women resorted.

The Lord Chief Justice summed up the evidence very impartially, and the jury withdrew to consider of their verdict; and, after retiring half-an-hour, they brought the prisoner in guilty of wilful murder; and the last day of the sessions the prisoner received sentence of death.

JOCELIN HARWOOD

*Highwayman, who committed such Barbarous Murders that
his Associates gave him up to Justice.
Executed in 1692*

JOCELIN HARWOOD was a degenerate plant from a good tree. His father was honest, moderately rich, and of undoubted reputation; and the greatest misfortune of his life was his having a child so unworthy of him. Jocelin was born in the year 1669, at Watlingbury, in Kent, where he was educated with all the caution necessary in such cases. When he grew towards seventeen years of age he ran away from his father, carrying off with him about sixty pounds. When he had wasted what he took from his father in luxury and wantonness he made no scruple of getting more in the same dishonest way. Being now in London, also, he had every disadvantage that a young man can have who has given way a little to the allurements of vice. His money brought him into bad company, and then that bad company persuaded him to seek for more money. He submitted at first only to pilfering and picking of pockets, which he followed for about three years, and then he resolved to move in a higher sphere, make a greater blaze in the world for a time, and receive his fate, when it came, with more honour.

The ill success of his first adventure on the highway was

JOCELIN HARWOOD

enough to have reformed him, and deterred him from ever attempting the like again. He had stolen a horse, bridle, saddle, holsters and pistols, with which he set out on Black Heath, and was so hardy as to order two men at once to stand and deliver. The gentlemen engaged him, shot his new horse, and had certainly taken him, if the wounds they had received in the encounter had not disabled them from exerting themselves. Harwood was terribly frightened at the bravery of his antagonists, and was glad he could get off with only the loss of a horse.

Jocelin continued to rob on the highway for about two or three years, during which time he lived in all manner of excess, passing from county to county as it suited either his pleasure or his safety.

The last and worst action of his life was committed at the house of Sir Nehemiah Burroughs, in Shropshire, where he was informed of an immense treasure in plate and money. In company with two more he went one night and broke open this house, gagging and binding all the servants as fast as they could get into their chambers. When the rest of the family was secure he went to the knight and bound him and his lady; then going into his daughters' room, one of the young ladies said to Harwood: "Pray, sir, use us civilly; which if you do, we will use you in the same manner, in case you and your companions should be taken; for I am sure we shall know you again." "Shall you so?" said the inhuman wretch. "I'll take care then to prevent your doing any mischief." Upon this he cut them both in pieces with his hanger, and then running into the old people's room again—"What," says he, "and do you know me too?" They told him no. "D—n you," said he, "you are only a little more artful than your daughters, but I shan't trust you." Then he run them both through, and left them wallowing in their blood, seeming as well satisfied as if he had done a meritorious deed.

His companions were so astonished at the barbarity of this fellow that they stood like stocks, unable either to prevent him in his bloody attempts, or to apprehend him

NEWGATE CALENDAR

for them on the place, which latter they had most mind to. But the horror continued so strong on their minds that, though they were both old offenders themselves, they could not help exposing him to justice as soon as they had left the house of this unhappy family. Being on the road, one of them by agreement shot his horse, and then they joined to bind him hand and foot, and leave him on the ground, with a piece of the knight's plate by his side, telling him it was but a just requital for his inhumanity.

The next day, an inquiry being made all over the country, he was found in the condition he had been left by his companions. He was sent under a strong guard to Shrewsbury Jail, where he behaved very audaciously. At his trial he was even so impudent as to spit in the faces of the judge and jury, and talk to them without any regard to decency. The matter of fact being plainly proved against him, he was condemned to be first hanged on the gallows till he was dead, and then to have his body hanged in chains on a gibbet for a public spectacle. This sentence made no impression on him; so that he continued the same horrid course of oaths, profaneness and blasphemies till his death. When he was at the gallows, with a steady countenance he said that he should act the same murder again, in the same case." This was all he would say to anybody. It is shocking to think that such a wretch should be but twenty-three years of age at the time of his death, which was in the year 1692.

SIMON FLETCHER

*A most expert Pickpocket, who captained the Thieves
of London. Executed in 1692*

THIS offender was the son of a baker in Rosemary Lane, to which trade he served about four years with his father; but happening several times to fall into bad company, and being of a vicious inclination, he was prevailed on, without much difficulty, to run away from his servitude,

MADAM MARY BUTLER

and enter with a gang of thieves. The chief sort of thieving at that time was cutting off people's purses or pockets, which was in use long before the modern and more dexterous practice of picking out the money and leaving the case behind. The latter, however, must be allowed to be only an improvement of the former, and therefore the performances of any of our pickpockets cannot be said to derogate from the merit of those gentlemen of the last age ; for the inventors of all sciences have generally been looked upon to deserve a greater share of praise than they that have brought those sciences to perfection, because it is much easier to refine upon the thought of another person than to start any new thought of our own.

Simon Fletcher was looked upon to be the greatest artist of his age by all his contemporaries of the same trade ; and it is affirmed that he was constituted captain of all the thieves¹ in and about London, by general consent. All that we know more of him is that he was at last taken, committed to Newgate, and hanged at Tyburn. His exit was in 1692, when he was about fifty-three years of age.

MADAM MARY BUTLER

Mistress of the Duke of Buckingham, fined Five Hundred Pounds for forging a Bond for Forty Thousand Pounds, and died in Newgate Prison in 1692

MADAM MARY BUTLER, *alias* Strickland, mistress to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, on the 13th of October, the year after his death, was indicted at Justice Hall, in the Old Bailey, for a misdemeanour in forging a bond in the name of the Worshipful Sir Robert Clayton, knight and alderman of the City of London, for forty thousand pounds, with a condition to pay twelve hundred pounds per annum, with interest, and that after

¹ See Appendix I.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the decease of the said Sir Robert Clayton there should be twenty thousand pounds paid her within six months ; which bond had a seal, and was witnessed by four persons.

The first evidence was Mr Woodward, an eminent attorney in the city, who deposed that Mary Butler had been his client for several years ; and that about two or three years before that time she came to him and brought him a bond to look over, and desired him that another should be drawn by it, which bond was signed Robert Clayton, and had a seal affixed to it, and the names of four persons subscribed to the same, and was of the penalty of forty thousand pounds, and dated in the year 1687, or thereabouts, to pay twelve hundred pounds yearly so long as Sir Robert should live, and after his decease to pay the sum of twenty thousand pounds ; and that she desired it might be kept a secret, and that his servants should not know anything of it, for that it was to be delivered up to Sir Robert, and she was to disclaim her interest by a bill in Chancery. And she told him she had received money upon the said bond, and desired him to cast up what was in arrears ; which he did, and then took a copy of the bond to draw the other by, by reason it was a special condition (which copy he produced in court, and said that he did believe it to be a true copy of the same) ; and that afterwards he drew a bond of the penalty of fifty-four thousand pounds for the payment of twenty-seven thousand pounds ; upon which he told Mrs Butler it was a great sum, and required people of credit to see it executed, and offered her to be one of the witnesses to see it done himself. Upon which she replied that Sir Robert knew him very well, and did not desire him to be a witness, and that she then took away the bond and the draft from him ; and he did not know what she did with it afterwards.

The next evidence was a very worthy gentleman, who deposed that he was present when she was brought before the Lord Chief Justice Holt, and that she did then acknowledge that she did cause the bond to be made by one Lucas, a scrivener in Bishopsgate Street, and owned that she did it herself and directed him to make it by her order.

JONES AND BARBER

Mrs Butler denied the fact upon her trial, and called persons to her reputation ; but that did not avail her : the jury found her guilty of a misdemeanour, and the Court fined her five hundred pounds, and ordered her to remain in prison till it was paid. But she never paid it, for after four years' imprisonment she died, in the common side of Newgate.

WILLIAM JONES (*ALIAS* GOODWIN) AND JOHN BARBER

*Two Highwaymen caught at the same Robbery and
executed together on 26th of July, 1693*

THESE two malefactors were executed at Tyburn on Wednesday, the 26th of July, 1693, for the same fact, which was robbing one Mr Salter, of Stoke, in Buckinghamshire. They had both been great offenders before, according to their age, though abundance of their robberies are not recorded.

William Jones, *alias* Goodwin (which latter was said to be his right name, though he went by the former), was born in Gloucestershire, at a village near Campden, called Weston Subedge. He was kept at school till sixteen years of age, with one Mr Taylor, whom he was like to have killed with a pistol. At their breaking up at Christmas the boys had shut their master out of the school in the midst of their diversion, and refused him entrance. Mr Taylor upon this endeavouring to force open the door upon them, Jones discharged a bullet through the keyhole and narrowly missed his breast.

Complaint being made to his father of this misdemeanour, he was severely corrected and removed to another school, the master of which was called Bedford, with whom he continued about two years more. He now thought himself too old to be restrained, and requested his parents to take him home ; which was done, according to his desire.

Some time after this he had a small estate left him by his

NEWGATE CALENDAR

grandfather, which made him still more desirous of being fully his own master; to which also his indulgent father consented, and promoted his liberty (if marriage may not rather be called a slavery) by matching him to a fortune as good as his own. The woman, however, not proving so good as she should do, a sense of her ill-usage made him extravagant. He now abandoned himself wholly to excesses. He had one night a small quarrel in company, when he made no more to-do but pull out his sword and stab the person who gave the affront to the very heart. A dread of the consequences of this murder made him get off as fast as he could, and the want he was in of a maintenance, when he was from home, and durst not send to his friends, made him take to the highway, where he committed a great many robberies.

In particular, he robbed the Worcester and Bridgnorth stage-coaches several times over, and within the compass of a few days stopped a great number of passengers, horse and foot, upon Sarney Downs, near Winchester. His reign was not very long, but no man ever was more industrious to improve the little time that his fortune permitted him to go on in his villainies.

John Barber was born at Chard, in Somersetshire, from whence, coming up to London when he was very young, he got into a gentleman's service, and lived, among others, with Dr Boorne, at the Two Twins, in Moorfields, where he was detected in cheating his master of small sums of money, and turned out of doors for the knavery.

When he was out of place he took to gaming, at which he soon lost all his unjust gains, and whatever else he had saved. The same persons that won his money put him into a way to get more, by going out with them on the footpad. He was concerned in all the robberies that were committed by this gang from the time of his entering among them till he joined himself with Jones, and had more than once been guilty of murder, particularly at a gardener's at Fulham, whose house he broke open.

JAMES LEONARD

Jones and Barber had not been long united before they came to the fatal union at Tyburn already mentioned. The only facts they had been concerned in together, that we have heard of, were the breaking open the houses of four or five farmers about Eversley and Blackwater, out of one of which they took a hundred and thirty pounds in gold and silver, and in another took away the life of one who attempted to resist them in their enterprise.

When they were under sentence of death for Mr Salter's robbery they both behaved in a very indecent, or rather impudent, manner. At the place of execution they gave a great many ill words to the ordinary, who desired them to be serious in their last moments, and consider that they were going to appear before God to give an account of their actions. Just as they were going to be turned off Jones cried out: "What a sad, wicked, silly dog have I been to bring myself into this devilish scrape! Well, it is a dismal thing, for all our jesting, to be hanged up by the neck, and not to know where we are to be the next quarter of an hour!" Jones was twenty-six and Barber twenty-four years of age.

JAMES LEONARD

Eighteen-year-old Highwayman, who tried to cut the Fatal Rope, and died with a Laugh in 1693

JAMES LEONARD, a youth of no more than eighteen years old, who had been at the reduction of Ireland, and afterwards in Flanders, under the late King William (we may suppose only in the quality of a waiting-boy at first), was but just returned to England when he was apprehended, condemned and executed, for a robbery on the highway. He was so little concerned at the gallows that he smiled at his misfortune, and pulling a knife out of his pocket attempted to cut the rope. When he was asked the reason of his so doing—"Nothing more," says he, "than that I should have given you the trouble of buying a new rope, if my knife had been good." Leaning his back against

NEWGATE CALENDAR

his coffin as it stood on the cope of the cart, he laughed out heartily and spoke as follows :—

GOOD PEOPLE,—I am a Roman Catholic, and so I die. You see I am but very young ; however I have made good use of my time, for I have been as great a rogue as those that are older. Methinks 'tis a plaguey cold morning ; they need not have brought one to be hanged in such weather as will freeze a body before the job's over.

EDWARD HINTON

Highwayman, who was such a Danger to Society that he was condemned and executed on the same Day, in 1694

EDWARD HINTON was born in London, in the year 1673, of very reputable parents. In his younger years he discovered a strong bent to learning, which his father cherished by putting him to St Paul's School, that celebrated seminary for youth. This good turn of mind was, however, soon overcome by a vicious one, which seemed also to be innate, and grew stronger as he grew older. Even at nine years of age, it is said, he robbed one of his sisters of six-pences and other small pieces to the value of thirty shillings, and kept abroad in company with boys like himself till he had spent and lost it all.

After a little correction young Hinton was sent to school again, upon his promising to be a better boy for the future. But in vain, alas, were his promises. Thieving soon grew into a habit with him, and there was no opportunity of getting money, or anything else, clandestinely that ever escaped him. He went so far at last as to rob his father's counting-house of a considerable sum of money, which he carried to a lewd woman, with whom he was soon after taken on Cambridge Heath.

The first action which he performed in conjunction with others was the robbing of Admiral Carter's country house. Soon after this he and his comrades broke open the Lady

EDWARD HINTON

Dartmouth's, house on Black Heath, and stole plate to a great value, which they sold to a refiner near Cripplegate.

Hinton was some time after apprehended for this robbery, and condemned at Maidstone Assizes; but his youth, and the intercession of his friends, procured him a pardon. He was again taken up for breaking open and robbing the house of Sir John Friend, at Hackney, for which he also received sentence of death; but was a second time so far indulged as to have a halter transmuted into transportation, in order to which he was soon after put aboard with other convicts. One would have thought he had now been safe enough; however those who thought so were mistaken, for he drew the rest of the convicts into a conspiracy to get the ship's company under the hatches, and make their escape in the long boat, which they effected near the Isle of Wight, Hinton having first beat the captain with a rope's end, as a return for being served so himself.

He was no sooner ashore than he left his company and travelled alone through the woods and byways, being in a very torn and rusty habit. This distress obliged him to sink from stealing to begging, which he practised all the way to Hounslow Heath, telling the people a lamentable story of his having been shipwrecked. But he soon altered his tone when he saw a convenient opportunity; for on Hounslow Heath he unhorsed a country farmer and mounted in his place. Nor was it long after before he changed this horse for a better, and his own ragged suit for a very genteel one, with a gentleman he met.

Being now got among some of his old gang, they continued some months to rob on the highway almost every day that passed. The Buckinghamshire lacemen and stage-coaches in particular were afraid to travel for them. Hinton by himself, at two several times, robbed a Dutch colonel of his money, horse, arms and cloak; and another gentleman, who had courage enough to exchange a pistol with him. This gentleman was wounded in the leg by Hinton's fire, and our young highwayman, perceiving it, was so generous as to lend him his assistance, and accompany him as far as

NEWGATE CALENDAR

within a little way of Epsom ; when he left him in order to take care of himself.

One day, after robbing the passengers in the Southampton coach, they were so closely pursued that some of the gang were taken ; and though Hinton had the good fortune this time to escape, yet the society being broken, he did not care to venture any more on the highway alone ; whereupon he returned to his old vocation of housebreaking, picking of pockets, etc.

At length several bills were presented against him for robberies committed in the counties of Surrey and Hertford, to answer which he was detained a prisoner. One of his own gang had made himself an evidence against him, which made the case look very doubtful ; yet even here he had again hopes of escaping, by stopping the mouth of this fellow. Some of Hinton's friends undertook to manage the matter, and they threatened to bring in several indictments against their false brother if he did not retract in court what he had before sworn ; which for his own safety he did, pretending that he had recollected himself, and that Mr Hinton was never concerned with him in any robbery whatsoever.

This, and the other assistances he received from his old friends, brought him off with honour at the Surrey Assizes, and he did not at all doubt but that he should escape as well at Hertford, there being no evidence against him that he knew of ; so that he went thither with abundance of confidence. But when his trial came on, in spite of all that could be deposed in his favour, one of the gentlemen whom he had robbed, and whom he did not expect to appear, swore so positively that he was the very person who unhorsed him and took away his watch that the Court believed him. It is true they had begun to imagine that Hinton really must be concerned in some of those things that he had been acquitted of, because it is unprecedented for a man to be so often accused and not be at all guilty. Besides, Hinton was known to be an old offender, which gave room both to suspect the evidences he brought and to believe that he had not perfectly

NEWGATE CALENDAR

where, assaulting Sir Zachary Wilmot on the road between Wellington and Taunton Dean, that unfortunate gentleman was murdered by him for making some attempts to save his money.

The booty he got from Sir Zachary was forty-six guineas and a silver-hilted sword, with which he got home undiscovered and unsuspected. This did not, however, last him long, for he followed his old riotous course. When it was all spent he pretended a visit to an uncle of his, who lived at about a mile from his own habitation, and it was one of the bloodiest visits that ever was made.

When he came to the house he found nobody at home but his aunt and five small children, who informed him that his uncle was gone out on business and would not be at home till evening, and desired him to stay a little and keep them company. He seemingly consented to stay; but had not sat many minutes before he snatched up a hatchet that was at hand and cleaved the skull of his aunt in two; after which he cut the throats of all the children and laid the dead bodies in a heap, all weltering in their gore. Then he went upstairs and robbed the house of sixty pounds.

He made all the haste he could home to his wife, who, perceiving some drops of blood on his clothes, asked him how they came there. "You bitch," says he, "I'll soon show you the manner of it!" pulling at the same time the bloody razor which he had before used out of his pocket and cutting her throat from ear to ear. When he had gone thus far, to complete the tragedy he ripped out the bowels of his own two children, the elder of whom was not three years of age.

Scarcely had he finished all his butcheries before his uncle, whom he had been to visit, came accidentally to pay him the same compliment on his way home; when, entering the house, and beholding the horrid spectacle, he was almost thunderstruck with the sight, though as yet he little thought the same tragedy had been acted on all his family too, as he soon after fatally found. What he saw, however, was enough to point out the offender, whom he immediately laid hold

JAMES WHITNEY

of, and carried him before a magistrate, who sent him to Exeter Jail.

In the month of August, 1694, this inhuman wretch suffered the punishment provided by the law, which appears much too mild for such a black unnatural monster.

JAMES WHITNEY

Notorious Highwayman, who believed in dressing well.

Executed at Smithfield, 19th of December, 1694

THIS notorious malefactor was born at Stevenage, in Hertfordshire, where he was put apprentice to a butcher as soon as he was fit for servitude. He served his time, as far as we have heard, very faithfully; but was not long his own master before he took to the irregular courses that brought destruction upon him and branded his name with infamy.

He took the George Inn, at Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, where he entertained all sorts of bad company; but not thriving in this way he was in a little time obliged to shut up his doors and entirely give over the occupation. He now came up to London, the common sanctuary of such men, where he lived very irregularly, and at last, when necessitous circumstances came on him apace, wholly gave himself up to villainy.

It was still some time before he took to the highway, following only the common tricks practised by the sharpers of the town, in which he was the more successful as he always went dressed like a gentleman, it being easier to impose upon mankind with a good suit of clothes than any other way whatsoever.

When Whitney was grown a confirmed highwayman he one day met a gentleman on Bagshot Heath, whom he commanded to stand and deliver. To which the gentleman replied: "Sir, 'tis well you spoke first, for I was just going to say the same thing to you." "Why, are you a gentleman thief then?" quoth Whitney. "Yes," said the stranger;

NEWGATE CALENDAR

“but I have had very bad success to-day ; for I have been riding up and down all this morning without meeting with any prize.” Whitney, upon this, wished him better luck and took his leave, really supposing him to be what he pretended.

At night it was the fortune of Whitney and this impostor to put up at the same inn, when our gentleman told some other travellers by what a stratagem he had escaped being robbed on the road. Whitney had so altered his habit and speech that the gentleman did not know him again ; so that he heard all the story without being taken any notice of. Among other things he heard him tell one of the company, softly, that he had saved a hundred pounds by his contrivance. The person to whom he whispered this was going the same way the next morning, and said he also had a considerable sum about him, and, if he pleased, should be glad to travel with him for security. It was agreed between them, and Whitney at the same time resolved to make one with them.

When morning came our fellow-travellers set out, and Whitney about a quarter of an hour after them. All the discourse of the gentlemen was about cheating the highwaymen, if they should meet with any, and all Whitney's thoughts were upon being revenged for the abuse which was put on him the day before.

At a convenient place he got before them and bade them stand. The gentleman whom he had met before, not knowing him, he having disguised himself after another manner, briskly cried out : “ We were going to say the same to you, sir.” “ Were you so ? ” quoth Whitney. “ And are you of my profession then ? ” “ Yes,” said they both. “ If you are,” replied Whitney, “ I suppose you remember the old proverb, ‘ Two of a trade can never agree,’ so that you must not expect any favour on that score. But to be plain, gentlemen, the trick will do no longer. I know you very well, and must have your hundred pounds, sir ; and your considerable sum, sir,” turning to the other, “ let it be what it will, or I shall make bold to send a brace of bullets through each of your heads.

JAMES WHITNEY

You, Mr Highwayman, should have kept your secret a little longer, and not have boasted so soon of having outwitted a thief. There is now nothing for you to do but deliver, or die." These terrible words put them both into a sad consternation. They were loath to lose their money, but more loath to lose their lives ; so of two evils they chose the least, the tell-tale coxcomb disbursing his hundred pounds, and the other a somewhat larger sum, professing that they would be careful for the future not to count without their host.

Whitney, like a great many others of the same profession, affected always to appear generous and noble. There is one instance of this temper in him which it may not be amiss to relate. Meeting one day with a gentleman on Newmarket Heath, whose name was Long, and having robbed him of a hundred pounds in silver, which was in his portmanteau tied up in a great bag, the gentleman told him that he had a great way to go, and as he was unknown upon the road should meet with many difficulties if he did not restore as much as would bear his expenses. Whitney upon this opened the mouth of the bag, and held it out to Mr Long. "Here," says he, "take what you have occasion for." Mr Long put in his hand and took out as much as he could hold. To which Whitney made no opposition, but only said with a smile: "I thought you would have had more conscience, sir."

Not long after his arrival in town, after a series of other adventures in the country, he was apprehended in Whitefriars, upon the information of one Mother Cosens, who kept a house in Milford Lane, over against St Clement's Church. The magistrate who took the information committed him to Newgate, where he remained till the next sessions at the Old Bailey.

After his conviction, Sir S——l L——e, Knight, Recorder of London, made an excellent speech before he passed sentence of death, and on Wednesday, the 19th of December, 1694, Whitney was carried to the place of execution, which was at Porter's Block, near Smithfield. When he came there,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and saw no hopes of any favour, he addressed these few words to the people :

"I have been a very great offender, both against God and my country, by transgressing all laws, both human and divine. The sentence passed on me is just, and I can see the footsteps of a Providence, which I had before profanely laughed at, in my apprehending and conviction. I hope the sense which I have of these things has enabled me to make my peace with Heaven, the only thing that is now of any concern to me. Join in your prayers with me, my dear countrymen, that God will not forsake me in my last moments."

Having spoken thus, and afterwards spent a few moments in private devotion, he was turned off, being about thirty-four years of age.

GEORGE SEAGER

*A Rogue of a Soldier, who deserted from Johnny Gibson's
Regiment and turned Burglar. Executed
27th of January, 1697*

GEORGE SEAGER, aged twenty-six years at the time of his death, was born at Portsmouth, in Hampshire, where, his father and mother dying, his sister took care of him for a while; but she, not being able to support herself, left it to the parish to keep him, the overseers whereof placed him out to spin packthread. After two years he left that employment and went to a silk-throwster for a year and a half, when, running away from his master, he took to bad courses, being addicted to gaming, swearing, drunkenness and theft; but a gang of the *Ruby* man-of-war pressing him, he went on board that ship to sea, where, robbing the seamen's chests, he was often whipped at the capstan, put in the bilboes, and once keel-hauled. Keel-hauling a man is tying a rope round his middle, to which two other ropes are so fastened that, carrying him to the end of the main-yardarm on the starboard-side of the ship, he is flung from

GEORGE SEAGER

thence into the water and hauled under the ship by a man standing on the main-yardarm on the larboard-side, where a gun is fired over the criminal's head as he is drawn up. However, as no punishment would deter him from pilfering, the captain of the ship, rather than be plagued with him, put him ashore at Plymouth, from whence he begged his way to Portsmouth, where he enlisted himself into Johnny Gibson's Regiment, to whom he was a continual plague.

The first time he mounted the guard, being put sentry on the ramparts and ordered by the corporal not to let the grand rounds pass without challenging, he said he would take care of them, imagining that if he challenged them he must fight them too. So the grand rounds going about at twelve at night, with Johnny Gibson at the head of them, Seager, who had got a whole hatful of stones by him, because he chose to fight at a distance, cries out: "Who comes there?" Being told they were the grand rounds—"Oh, d—n ye!" quoth George, "the grand rounds, are ye? Have at you then; for I have waited for you this hour and above." So pelting them with stones as fast as he could fling, the grand rounds could not pass any farther till they called out to the captain of Lamport Guard, who sent the corporal to relieve him, in order to his being examined; but Johnny Gibson finding him to be a raw soldier, who had never been on duty before, he escaped any punishment inflicted on offenders by martial law.

After this George also ran the gauntlet several times for robbing the soldiers' barracks of victuals, linen or anything else that he could find; but no punishment deterring him from his pilfering tricks, he was in a draft sent over to Flanders, where, going one day into a great church in Brussels, he espied a Capuchin friar confessing a young woman in a very private place; and as soon as the good old Father had given absolution to his penitentiary, he made up to him, under pretence of confessing his sins, for, as it happened, the friar was an Englishman. But, instead of confessing his manifold crimes, his intention was to commit more; for, pulling a pistol out of his pocket and clapping

NEWGATE CALENDAR

it to his breast, quoth he : “ Reverend Father, I perceived the young gentlewoman, whom you just now confessed, gave you something ; but, let it be more or less, unless you surrender it to me, who have most need of it, I will shoot you through the heart, although I were sure to be hanged this very moment for it.”

The friar, being much surprised at these dangerous words, and deeming life sweet, gave him what he had got from his female penitentiary, which was two louis d’or ; then binding him hand and foot, in a corner adjacent to his confession box, he went away ; and that same day, deserting his regiment, he made the best of his way to England, where he committed several most notorious burglaries in the cities of London and Westminster, and the outparts thereof. But at last being apprehended, and sent to Newgate, for breaking open the house of the Lord Cutts and taking from thence plate and fine linen valued at two hundred and forty pounds, he was hanged at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 27th day of January, in the year 1697.

WILLIAM JOYCE

A Chawbacon who, coming to London, was fleeced, so took to fleecing Others. Executed in July, 1696

THIS unhappy criminal was the son of an honest farmer, born at Nantwich, in Cheshire, and brought up to his father’s occupation ; but at about twenty years of age, being very desirous to see London, he having scarce ever been ten miles from home, his father, who was a wealthy man, put twenty-five guineas into his pockets, and he set out to visit the metropolis of the nation. The father and son might have now taken their last farewell of each other, for they never saw one another any more.

The very first day he came into London, which was in the forenoon, taking, after dinner, a walk into Moorfields to see the lunatics in Bedlam, a couple of women of the town, perceiving by his garb and mien that he was no small

WILLIAM JOYCE

country fool, picked him up, and carrying him to a vaulting school they there had a very pretty collation both of eating and drinking; after which sweet William, being a brisk young fellow, had a game at hey gammar-cook with them both, in which he lost all the money he had in his breeches. He began to be uneasy at his loss, but they coaxing him up with promises of his having or finding his money again, they drank him to a pitch of being *non compos mentis*, when, falling asleep, they left him to pay the reckoning of four pounds odd money.

Then he roved down to the waterside, where, seeing a waterman taking a good heavy trunk into his boat to carry to Fulham, without any company, he told the waterman, whose name was William Bennet, that he had business at Fulham too, and asked what he must have to carry him thither. The waterman demanded a shilling, to which he consented; so into the boat he steps. It being night before they arrived within a mile of the place, what does Joyce do but, with a good oaken plant he had in his hand, give the waterman such a shrewd blow under the ear that, being stunned, he fell all along backwards. Joyce followed it with another sharp blow on the head, then presently tied his hands and feet with his garters, crammed a handkerchief into his mouth, and rowing the boat to Barn Elms there breaks open the trunk. He found a great deal of good clothes, which he would not meddle with; but searching to the bottom he found a hundred pounds in silver in a bag, forty guineas in a green purse, a gold watch, and a silver box in which were four rich diamond rings.

With this booty he went ashore, and lived riotously up and down the country till it was almost consumed; and being then at Chatham, he there happened into the company of one James Corbet, a young reformed, just come ashore from on board the *Royal Oak*. Now, understanding that he had about fifty or sixty guineas about him, and that he was to ride post to London next morning, Joyce was resolved to make himself master of this money that night. In order thereto, pretending that he was invited to one Captain

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Mosely's house, about a mile off, to supper, where they should have also a most noble bowl of punch, he told the poor sailor that he should be very glad of his good company, and would undertake for his being as welcome as himself. Corbet knowing there was such a captain, and Joyce seeming a man of fashion (for he was well clothed, had a good watch in his fob, a diamond ring on his finger, and five or six guineas in his pockets, out of which he paid his own and Corbet's reckoning too), he condescended to go along with him. Over the fields they went, but were not got above half-a-mile out of Chatham ere a convenient place offered for Joyce to execute his design; so pulling out a couple of pistols he demanded Corbet's money, who, knowing it was impossible to parry bullets with a sword (which he also lost as it was a silver-hilted one), complied with his demands, and also suffered himself to be tied neck and heels.

One time Joyce, meeting with one John Hicks on Putney Heath, commanded him to stand and deliver; but he being as stout a fellow as the highwayman a fight ensued betwixt them, in which they discharged several shots at one another without doing any damage. Joyce, admiring the courage of Hicks, said that if he could put so much confidence in him to think he would not betray him he should be very glad to drink a glass of wine with him in the town of Putney. Hicks being a generous-spirited man promised upon honour he would not discover him. To the tavern they went, and having passed the time away for an hour or two in chat, the highwayman paid the reckoning, presented Hicks with five guineas, and then they parted. But ere Joyce went far, meeting with one Robert Williams, a goldsmith, living in George Yard at Westminster, and one Samuel Winfield, a blacksmith, living in Southwark, he took from them four pounds towards defraying the charges of his late conversation with John Hicks.

Afterwards he went to Bristol, where, marrying a citizen's daughter, with whom he had about five hundred pounds, he was by marrying her made (according to the custom of that city) free thereof. Now pretending he was a linen-

SALISBURY AND HOUGHTON

draper by trade, and had fifteen hundred pounds to receive of his own father, he takes the lease of a great house next to an eminent goldsmith in the High Street. The key being delivered to him, he took some of his accomplices with him the same night into this house, which yet was empty, and with iron instruments forcing a hole through the party wall of the goldsmith's shop, they cleared, without going into it, all the plate off the shelves quite along that side they had made an entrance.

They were carrying off their prize in hampers on a couple of horses when, being stopped by the watch at Laifford's Gate, he and two others were apprehended and sent to Newgate, and in some short time after, being tried and condemned for this fact, they were sentenced to be hanged. Accordingly they were executed (though great intercession in particular was made for Joyce) in July, 1696.

DR FRANCIS SALISBURY AND THOMAS HOUGHTON

*Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of November, 1697, for forging
a Sixpenny Stamp*

FRANCIS SALISBURY was born in the city of Worcester, had a good education, was a student in divinity, and a man of an excellent acquired knowledge, as well as a quick natural understanding. Thomas Houghton, his brother offender, was a tallow-chandler, of St Margaret's, Westminster. These two were indicted at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, the 15th day of October, 1697, for felony, in forging a counterfeit sixpenny stamp to stamp vellum, paper and parchment; and that after the 12th of September they did stamp five hundred sheets of paper with the said stamp, and did utter and sell a hundred sheets of the said paper, they knowing it to be false and counterfeit.

The first evidence declared that he met Dr Salisbury at the Physic Garden in Westminster, who told him he could put him in a way to make up his losses, and this way

NEWGATE CALENDAR

was by stamped paper; that he (the evidence) waited on the doctor the next day, and then he told him the rest would not entrust him with the secret till he came out of the country. That some time after he heard that the doctor was at the Fountain Tavern, in High Holborn, whither he went to him and spoke with him, and that he bade him come to him the next morning and he would let him have some. That this evidence accordingly went, and the doctor took him into a stable, and in a hole from under the manger he took out five quires, and gave them to him, and asked him whether it was well done. And then he let him out of the back door. That he met with him at another time after that, and he delivered him fifteen quires more, which made it up a ream, and that he gave him five pounds for it.

Another evidence deposed that he met Dr Salisbury at the Thatched House, by Charing Cross, to buy some counterfeit stamped paper of him, and that he desired him to go into the next room, which he did, and believed that Houghton brought it in; and he gave Salisbury six pounds for it; and that they were to get him some more against the next night at the Goat Tavern, where they were to meet, and that Houghton told him they could not get so much done by that time, for the old man was sick; telling him likewise that the old man was as ingenious a man as any was in England; and that if they would put down thirty shillings apiece, they would make such a die as Captain Harris, who made the true die, should not discover it. And that afterwards they went to Houghton's lodgings in Westminster, where they found in a chest a quantity of counterfeit stamped paper.

Salisbury altogether denied the fact, and Houghton said he had taken the paper for a debt; but the fact being plainly proved upon them, the jury found them both guilty of the indictment.

On the day of his execution at Tyburn, after the other criminals who then suffered (on the 3rd of November, 1697) were tied up, Dr Salisbury came in a mourning-coach attended by two ministers, and being brought into the cart,

WILL HOLLYDAY

he fell upon his knees, and, praying a considerable time by himself, he afterwards joined with the ordinary in the usual offices performed on such melancholy occasions, and then was turned off.

WILL HOLLYDAY

*Captain of the Ragged Regiment of the Black Guards, which
Commission he threw up to take to the Highway.
Executed 22nd of December, 1697*

WILLIAM HOLLYDAY was born of very poor parents, in the parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields, who dying when he was very young, he was forced to shift for himself. Entering himself upon this in the ragged regiment of the Black Guards, which in the reign of King Charles II. was in as great estimation as the janizaries in the Ottoman Court, his acute genius and prompt wit, without the advantage of any education, soon made him be taken notice of by the superiors of his tattered fraternity.

But that which gained Hollyday most reputation was his being chosen Lord High Steward in a mock trial of the Viscount Stafford, held in the Mews at Charing Cross ; in which, though he had not consulted Fortescue, Fleta, Plowden, *Coke upon Littleton*, or any other ancient law author, his natural parts most floridly set forth the heinousness of that peer's crime, whose person was represented by one of their tatterdemalions. But instead of executing the poor boy in jest, he was hanged in earnest, and in that pendent posture left till next morning ; when one of the king's grooms, finding his lordship hanging in the stable, cut him down and delivered his dead body to his friends to be decently interred.

A little after this piece of mock justice was over, Will's credit increasing more and more, by reason his ingenuity was attended with a great deal of courage, he was, by the unanimous consent of the whole regiment of the Black Guards, chosen their captain ; in which post he behaved himself with a great deal of prudence and circumspection,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and by virtue of the great authority he bore among them he brought them, *nemine contradicente*, to be conformable to the following orders :—

I. That none of the Black Guards should presume to wear a shirt, upon pain of being cashiered out of the regiment for ever.

II. That none of them should reside, either by day or night, in any other places than stables, empty houses or under bulks.

III. That they should eat no victuals but what was given them; therefore what money they got by cleaning Life Guardsmen's boots or shoes, and rubbing down horses, should either be lost or increased by gaming among their own fraternity.

IV. That if any of them could read or write they should, by not practising either, forget both, like the Czar of Muscovy, for their captain would not have any under his command more learned than himself.

V. That they should daily appear every morning by nine of the clock on the parade in St James's Park, provided they were not letted by sickness, or upon any extraordinary duty, to receive the necessary orders which the present exigency of affairs then required.

VI. That none shall presume to follow the King and Court to Windsor, or upon any Royal progress whatever, but such as were commanded to go on that party.

VII. That if any charitable person bestowed a pair of old shoes or stockings upon any one of their ragged society, he should presently convert the same into money to play.

VIII. That they should not steal anything which lay out of their reach, for fear of bringing a scandal on their regiment.

IX. That they should not endeavour to clear themselves of vermin, by killing or eating them; nor for profit dispose of them to any apothecary that might now and then want a quillful or two to cure some lady's gentlewoman or chambermaid of the yellow jaundice.

X. That they should cant better than the best proficients

JOHN SHORTER

of that language in Newgate; pick pockets without bungling; outlie a Quaker; outswear a losing lord at the Groom Porter's; and brazen out all their villainies with the unparalleled impudence of an Irishman.

In this employment Will Hollyday remained till he was near twenty years of age, when looking upon himself as too old to continue longer in that station, wherein he had behaved himself with a great deal of bravery, candour and justice, he surrendered his commission and turned highwayman; which profession he followed till the hangman provided for him, on Wednesday, the 22nd of December, 1697.

JOHN SHORTER

*Highwayman, who conspired a Revolt in Newgate and
saw the Ghost of another Malefactor there.*

Executed 22nd of December, 1697

EXECUTED on 22nd of December, 1697, was a highwayman named John Shorter, of about thirty years of age. Whilst this fellow was in Newgate, about two years before, he had designed with some other malefactors to have seized on the waiters of Newgate, and to have burnt Mr Tofield's papers, the notary then in the lodge of that prison; withal designing to wrest the officers' arms from them, and to fire upon them if they opposed. They further designed to have bound the officers as they came one day from the chapel, and if they made the least opposition to have cut their throats; and that after their escape they would go on the highways, take travellers' horses, and, mounting them, would ride off. Moreover they had agreed that if anyone knocked at the lodge under the gate they would let them in and bind them also, and then lock them up with the officers in the dungeon or condemned hold. One of these confederates being a smith, he was to have been employed in knocking off the others' fetters; and if the turnkeys had any money in their pockets they would take it from them, to carry themselves off and buy provisions.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

And if the trained bands, or the mob, should come to seize them, they would fire upon them with the officers' blunderbusses, and would be masters of the prison till the King should send them a pardon, or else they would be starved or shot to death.

Shorter not only confessed this crime, but also owned that he knew of the murder of one Lorimer, in Newgate, but was prevailed upon by one Tokefield, and John Hart, not to discover it; he further said that the latter of these persons carried the bloody knife three days in his pocket; and he verily believed that the day before he suffered death himself at the gallows he saw Lorimer's ghost as he was at prayers in the chapel of Newgate, which put him into a great consternation, as was visibly observed by Mr Smith, the ordinary.

Thomas Randol was one of the persons concerned with Shorter in this conspiracy. This offender was executed on Wednesday, the 22nd of January, 1695, for the murder of Robert Stevens, a Quaker. He was conveyed in a cart to the deceased's door, in Whitechapel, and from thence to Stone Bridge, by Kingsland, where, after he was dead, his body was hanged in chains on the gibbet he suffered on, and continued there till it was consumed by the weather.

SPENCER COWPER, Esq.; JOHN MARSON,
ELLIS STEVENS AND WILLIAM ROGERS, GENTS.

*Tried for murder at Hertford Assizes and acquitted,
16th of July, 1699*

THE prisoners being severally arraigned, and pleading not guilty, it was demanded if they would join in their challenges, or challenge separately. To which Mr Cowper answered, if they should challenge separately, there must be so many separate trials; and therefore, to prevent the trouble of the Court, they were content there should be but one challenge for all.

Then the panel was called over, and there being so many challenged for the King and the prisoners that there was

COWPER, MARSON, STEVENS, ROGERS

not a full jury on the principal panel, Mr Cowper moved that the counsel for the King might show their cause of challenge, now the panel was gone through : to which Mr Jones, counsel for the King, answered that it never was put upon the King's Counsel to show cause ; and insisting upon it, though the judge was of another opinion, Mr Cowper gave it up, and others were added to the principal panel, till twelve were sworn.

Then the Clerk of the Arraignment read the indictment to the prisoners, which set forth :

That Spencer Cowper, late of the parish of St John's, in the town of Hertford, in the county of Hertford, Esq. ; John Marson, late of the parish and county aforesaid, gent. ; Ellis Stevens and William Rogers, of the said parish and county, gents., not having the fear of God before their eyes, etc., did, on the 13th day of March, in the eleventh year of the King, at the parish of St John's aforesaid, make an assault upon Sarah Stout, spinster, and a certain rope about the neck of the said Sarah Stout did fix and bind, and the neck and throat of the said Sarah did hold, squeeze and grip, and thereby the said Sarah Stout did choke and strangle, of which choking and strangling she instantly died ; and so the said Spencer Cowper, John Marson, Ellis Stevens and William Rogers did kill and murder her ; and the said Sarah Stout being so choked and strangled, they the said Spencer Cowper, etc., in order to conceal the said murder, did afterwards throw her into a certain river, called the Priory river, against the King's peace, etc.

Mr Jones afterwards opened the indictment and the evidence in the following manner :—

“ May it please your Lordship, and you gentlemen that are sworn, I am of counsel for the King in this cause, and it is upon an indictment by which the gentlemen at the bar stand accused for one of the foulest and most wicked crimes almost that any age can remember. I believe in your county you never knew a fact of this nature ; for here is a young gentlewoman of this county murdered and strangled in the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

night-time. The thing was done in the dark, therefore the evidence cannot be so plain as otherwise might be.

After she was strangled and murdered she was carried and thrown into a river to stifle the fact and to make it be supposed she had murdered herself; so that it may indeed be called a double murder, a murder accompanied with all the circumstances of wickedness and villainy that I can remember in all my practice, or ever read of.

This fact being committed in the night-time, it was carried on very secretly. We have here in a manner two trials, one to acquit the party that is dead, and to satisfy the world and vindicate her reputation that she did not murder herself, but was murdered by other hands. For my part, I shall never, as counsel in the case of blood, aggravate; I will not improve or enlarge the evidence at all: it shall be only my business to set the fact as it is, and to give the evidence, and state it as it stands here in my instructions.

My Lord, in order to lead to the fact, it will be necessary to inform you that upon Monday, the 13th of March, the first day of the last assizes here, Mr Cowper, one of the gentlemen at the bar, came to this town, and alighted at Mr Barefoot's house, and stayed there some time, I suppose to dry himself, the weather being dirty, but sent his horse to Mrs Stout's, the mother of this gentlewoman. Some time after he came thither himself and dined there, and stayed till four in the afternoon; and when he went away he told them he would come and lodge there that night, and sup.

According to his word he came there, and had the supper he desired. After supper, Sarah Stout, the young gentlewoman, and he, sat together till near eleven o'clock. At eleven o'clock there were orders given to warm his bed, openly, in his hearing. The maid of the house, gentlemen, upon this, went upstairs to warm his bed, expecting the gentleman would have come up and followed her before she had done; but it seems, while she was warming the bed, she heard the door clap together; and that door is such that it makes a great noise at the clapping of it to, so that any person in the house may be sensible of another's going out.

COWPER, MARSON, STEVENS, ROGERS

The maid, upon this, was concerned, and wondered at the meaning of it, as he promised to sleep there that night. She came down, but there was neither Mr Cowper nor Sarah Stout ; so that we suppose they must have gone out together. After this the maid and mother came into the room, and, neither the young gentlewoman nor Mr Cowper returning, they sat up all night in the house, expecting the young gentlewoman would return. The next morning the first news of this lady was that she lay floating and swimming in the water by the mill dam. Upon that there were several persons called ; for it was a wonder how this should come to pass.

When her body came to be viewed, it was very much wondered at ; for, in the first place, it is contrary to nature that any persons that drown themselves should float upon the water. We have sufficient evidence that it is a thing that never was. If persons go alive into the water, then they sink ; if dead, then they float : that made some more curious to look into this matter. At first it was thought that such an accident might happen, though they could not imagine any cause for this woman to do so, who had so great prosperity, had so good an estate and had no occasion to do an action upon herself so wicked and so barbarous ; nor can they learn she had any reason to induce her to such a thing. Upon viewing the body it did appear there had been violence used to the woman : there was a crease round her neck, and she was bruised about her ear, so that it seemed as if she had been strangled, either by hands or a rope.

Gentlemen, upon the examination it was wondered how this matter came about ; it was dark and obscure. The coroner at that time, nor these people, had no evidence given but the ordinary evidence, and it passed in a day.

We must call our witnesses to this fact, that of necessity you must conclude she was strangled, and did not drown herself. If we give you as strong a proof as can be upon the nature of the fact that she was strangled, then the second matter under your inquiry will be to know who or what persons should be the men that did the fact. Truly, gentlemen, as to the persons at the bar, the evidence of the fact will be very short, and will be to this purpose.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Mr Cowper was the last man, unfortunately, in her company; I could wish he had not been so with all my heart. Here happens to be three gentlemen, Mr Marson, Mr Rogers and Mr Stevens. As to these three men, my Lord, I do not hear of any business they had here, unless it was to do this matter to serve some interest or friend that sent them upon this message; for, my Lord, these persons, Mr Stevens, Mr Rogers and Mr Marson, came to town here on the 13th of March last, the assize day. My Lord, when they came to town they went to a house and took lodging at one Gurrey's, having hired a room with a large bed in it; and afterwards they went to the Glove and Dolphin, and then, about eight o'clock, one Marson came to them there. They stayed there, my Lord, from eight o'clock till eleven, as they say. At eleven these three gentlemen came all in to their lodging together at this Gurrey's. My Lord, when they came in, it was very remarkable, just as if there had been a sort of fate in it, for, my Lord, they called for fire, and the fire was made them; and while the people of the house were going about they observed and heard these gentlemen talk of Sarah Stout: that happened to be their discourse. One said to the other: "Marson, she was an old sweetheart of yours." "Aye," said he, "but she cast me off; but I reckon by this time a friend of mine has done her business." Another piece of discourse was: "I believe a friend of mine is even with her by this time." They had a bundle of linen with them, but what it was is not known; and one takes the bundle and throws it upon the bed—"Well," said he, "her business is done. Mrs Sarah Stout's courting days are over"; and they sent for wine, my Lord. So, after they had drunk of the wine, they talked, and one pulled out a great deal of money. Said one to the other: "What money have you spent to-day?" Said the other: "Thou hast had forty or fifty pounds for thy share." Said the other: "I will spend all the money I have, for joy the business is done."

My Lord, this discourse happened to be among them, which made people of the house consider and bethink

TOM ROWLAND

themselves, when the next day they heard of Sarah Stout's being found in the river."

After witnesses for the Crown had been called, Mr Cowper spoke in his own defence, saying: "It is utterly impossible I could be concerned in this fact, if I had had all the motives and provocations in the world to have done it. The maid, Sarah Walker, who is the single witness, I take it, that says anything in the least relating to me, said but now the clock had struck eleven before she carried up the coals, and about a quarter of an hour after, while she was warming the bed, she heard the door clap, and some time after she came down and found that I and her mistress were gone. Now, in point of time, I shall prove it utterly impossible I could be guilty of the fact I am accused of, being seen to come into the Glove Inn as the clock struck eleven, and staying there more than a quarter of an hour was, after several things done at my lodging, in bed before twelve o'clock, and went no more out that night, as I shall prove."

After Mr Cowper the other prisoners entered upon their defence, which was that they did not murder Sarah Stout, and knew nothing whatever about her death. Medical witnesses were called, and several of the dead woman's friends testified to her being of a melancholy disposition.

The jury, withdrawing for about half-an-hour, returned with their verdict that neither Mr Cowper nor any one of the other three prisoners was guilty; and thereupon they were all discharged.

TOM ROWLAND

*Who worked the Highway disguised as a Woman for
Eighteen Years. Executed 24th of October, 1699*

TOM ROWLAND was born at Ware, in Hertfordshire, and by his parents was put an apprentice to a bricklayer; but after he had served his time, being then of a slothful, idle disposition, he kept such company as soon brought him to follow evil courses; and, to support his

NEWGATE CALENDAR

extravagancy in a most riotous way of living, he stole a horse out of the Duke of Beaufort's stables, at his seat at Badminton, in Gloucestershire; and then, going on the highway, committed several most notorious robberies, for above eighteen years; but he always robbed in women's apparel, which disguise was the means of his reigning so long in his villainy. Whenever he was pursued he then rode astride; but at last, being apprehended in this unlawful habit for robbing a person on Hounslow Heath of a quantity of bone-lace, to the value of twelve hundred pounds sterling, he was condemned for this fact, and found guilty also upon another indictment preferred against him for robbing another person, near Barnet, of eighty-four pounds, nine shillings. However, whilst he lay under sentence of death he was very refractory, and was so abominably wicked that the very morning on which he died, lying in the Press Yard, for he wanted for no money whilst under confinement, a common woman coming to visit him, he had the unparalleled audaciousness to act carnally with her, and gloried in the sin as he was going to execution, which was at Tyburn, on Friday, the 24th of October, 1699, aged forty years.

JOHN BELLINGHAM

*Son of a Justice, who took to the Highway, and was
executed 27th of October, 1699, for Forgery*

JOHN BELLINGHAM, after having been concerned with one John Arthur in several highway robberies, was indicted at the Old Bailey, the 13th of October, 1699, upon two indictments for forgery. The first was for altering the endorsement of a bank note and taking out the name of Sir John Ellwell and putting in the name of Mr James Carr; but the evidence to this indictment being not sufficient to convict him, the jury acquitted him. The second indictment was for altering an Exchequer bill of five pounds, with a farthing a day interest, and making it a bill of forty pounds, with twopence a day interest for the same, and likewise altering

JOHN BELLINGHAM

the endorsement ; and that he, after the 6th of August, 1699, knowing the same to be falsified, did offer the same in payment with an intent to cheat his Majesty's subjects.

The first evidence deposed that, about the 18th or 19th of July last, he met Mr Bellingham in Lincoln's Inn Walks, who told him he had a business would do him a kindness ; and that he had a bank bill, but it was not fairly come by ; and that thereupon he (the witness) asked him whether it was one of Arthur's bills. To which Bellingham replied : " No " ; and told him if he could get him some Exchequer bills he had a friend could make a five-pound a ten-pound one, and he would have thirty shillings for his pains. With that they parted, and he communicated the matter to the trustees of the Exchequer and got a five-pound bill, and carried it to Bellingham, and they agreed together, and he was to have ten pounds for his share, which he afterwards received of Bellingham.

Another evidence deposed that Bellingham's wife and one Mrs Easton came with the Exchequer bills, the first by the name of Hill, and the other by the name of Holmes, and bought as much linen as came to twenty pounds odd money, and offered the bill in payment which was made forty pounds ; upon which he went out to advise with some acquaintance whether it was a good bill or no, who told him that it was a good bill ; and then he held it up against the light, and could not see anything amiss in it, upon which he paid them the rest of the money, and they went away. However, being not thoroughly satisfied, he goes to the Exchequer, and there found it to be only a five-pound bill altered, the same bill that the first evidence produced to the prisoner ; that upon this he got Bellingham apprehended, and he was carried before Secretary Vernon, and, being examined about it, after an hour's hesitation he asked if there was any mercy. To which it was replied it was not long since he had received mercy. Whereupon he freely confessed the fact, and said that nobody did it but himself. It likewise appeared that he was in the robbery with John Arthur and his brother, who some time before robbed the western mail,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and were executed the 23rd of March before, and by that means he got the bank bill.

The prisoner upon his trial objected against the first evidence, and would have the jury believe he had done it himself; and as for what he had confessed before Secretary Vernon, he said it was an old maxim in the law that what a prisoner should confess before a justice should not be given in evidence against him. But he was answered by the Court that, if there was such a maxim, it was so old it was forgotten. And they asked him if he could produce any such record. To which he answered, "No." The jury found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

On the morning of his execution, 27th of October, 1699, he declared that he was born in Surrey, son to Justice Bellingham, who kept a glasshouse at Vauxhall, by Lambeth; that he had a good education given him, but in his younger years hearkened to bad advice, and, having scarce attained to the age of thirteen years, joined with some persons who made it their practice to rob on the highway. He said he could not remember one half of the robberies that he had been concerned in, but that a great part of them were committed in company with Arthur, lately executed, as above-mentioned.

He said, also, that after so many robberies justice at last overtook him, for committing a robbery on Bristow Causey, in Surrey. He and his gang killed the person they robbed—he being something obstinate, though he had no great purchase about him—for which he was apprehended and committed to the Marshalsea, and tried for the crime, and convicted, the next Surrey Assizes. But after condemnation he made use of several stratagems to make his escape, and among the rest he, feigning himself sick, so deceived the keepers that, by means of the liberty they allowed him, he got away in woman's clothes.

WILLIAM MORELL

A " Cavalier " Doctor and Fraudulent Impersonator, who continued his Cheats even after his Death in 1700

WILLIAM MORELL was born at Banbury, in Oxfordshire, of very reputable parents, in 1650. He was put apprentice to a surgeon as soon as his father thought him fit for servitude. He went through the usual time, with abundance of satisfaction to his master and honour to himself, having acquired a knowledge beyond what is commonly found in young theorists. He understood anatomy very well, and would reason finely upon all the systems of the human economy. All this knowledge was afterwards confirmed and increased by practice when he came to set up at Banbury, on the death of his master, where he continued some time in very great reputation, which he really deserved both for his penetration and diligence. What put an end to his living here was his running beyond his income, though that was large, and exposing himself daily to vexatious suits and arrests, till at last he was obliged to leave the place and seek his fortune.

The first means that presented itself to his thought was turning quack and travelling the country as a mountebank ; for which profession he was the more fit as he was very capable of performing such manual operations as these impostors generally pretend to, and of letting the judicious see that he understood something, if the family should ever challenge him to a trial of skill, as it frequently happened.

He was resolved, however, not to do any hurt with the medicines he sold, as a great many ignorant fellows do, who destroy the lives of others purely to maintain their own. To this end he made up a quantity of very innocent pills with a little fine flour and treacle, making use of the same powder to roll them in as other physicians do. These pills were a sovereign remedy for all internal distempers whatsoever. They were the only specific under the sun, and took up, as he said, a great deal of time, as well as expense, in

NEWGATE CALENDAR

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NEWGATE CALENDAR

preparing. For all green wounds, bruises and pains he had a plaster altogether as harmless, having no other quality than that of sticking to the skin, wheresoever it was placed. He had, moreover, a little spring water, tinctured with something that changed the colour without altering the property in the least, and this was to cure all the blind people in the kingdom. For agues, colds and such diseases as are most common among the country people he had plenty of amulets, which were to be disposed of to those who had most faith and least reason; for such people prefer remedies of this kind to those that operate in a natural way and give some rational ground for our expecting a good effect from them.

Being thus prepared he set out, without any retinue at all, designing to be only a "cavalier" doctor, which was far less expensive than keeping a stage would be, and far more honourable than travelling on foot. He had still two or three good suits of clothes left, in all of which he appeared at several times in every place he came to.

By his rhetoric he prevailed upon the poor ignorant country people, so that they bought up his remedies as fast as he could wish. It was not, however, to his interest to appear above two or three times in a place, which he was sensible of; and therefore he shifted his ground very often, living all the time in splendour, admired and even adored by his deluded patients. Besides what he professed to do by his medicines already named he also had a great deal of practice in surgery, in which he was really expert, as has been before noted, and this served to raise his character upon other accounts, as his operations were skilful and worthy of the best surgeons.

Being in the north of England, and having quacked it from town to town as long as he could with safety, he had a mighty inclination to come up to London, but had not at that time money enough to pay the expense of such a journey, nor even to discharge his lodging where he now resided. How to get out of this scrape he could not for some days tell; for it was impossible to come at his horse

WILLIAM MORELL

without money, unless he broke open the stable, which was a remedy worse than the disease. What did he do at last but take several sheets of clean paper, folded them up, and sealed them very carefully in the form of letters, directing one to my Lord Middleton, another to another nobleman, and so on to all the officers of King James's Court at St Germain's. Everyone knows that in the reign of King William it was high treason to hold any correspondence with the abdicated monarch, and consequently with any in trust under him. These blank letters, if I may so call them, he laid carefully on one corner of a table in the room where he lay, and went out, as about business.

While he was gone, the maid went, according to custom, to make his bed, and being able to read writing she had the curiosity to look on our gentleman's letters, when she was surprised to see so many great names upon the outside of them. Downstairs she runs as soon as ever she had done her work and tells her master what great men the doctor was acquainted with. Our host was like his servant, and, indeed, like all of the same profession—very inquisitive. He was, moreover, pretty well acquainted with the national affairs of that time, by reading the news and hearing the conversation of gentlemen; all which Morell had before noted, and concluded from it that the consequence of what he had done would be as he desired it.

The landlord goes up as fast as he could and takes hold of the papers; but what a consternation was he in when he beheld to whom they were directed! Treason without dispute! "Oh, Mr Doctor, we see now what you are; you don't travel to heal the bodies of people only, but to corrupt their minds and converse with the enemies of the nation. These shall all be opened, my boy, and I warrant I shall lose nothing by making such a discovery. My Lord Middleton and my Lord Middleton's master may wait long enough before they have any news from you. 'Tis like indeed that they may hear of you soon, when you are drawn in state up Holborn Hill on a sledge."

The next thing was to apply to the chief magistrate of

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the city (for it was at Carlisle) for a warrant to secure the person of William Morell as a dangerous man to the State. This, to be sure, was readily granted, and a messenger sent to the Secretary of State with an account of the whole affair, who immediately dispatched a proper officer, with orders to bring up both prisoner and papers to town, that they might be examined in form.

Now had Morell all he desired—the allowance of a State prisoner and a safe conduct up to town; where he was kept on his arrival at the house of a Messenger of State till next day, when he was carried to the Secretary's office. The secretaries were as much surprised at the inside of the letters as our landlord had been at the outside, when they saw nothing there but blank paper. All the ways they could think of to make the writing appear were made use of, for they imagined he had found out some art to conceal his business if the letters should happen to be intercepted. At last, when everything else was found in vain, a free pardon was offered him upon condition that he should discover all the secrets of his correspondence, and tell the persons who were concerned in it here in England, that they might be apprehended.

To make short of the story, he now frankly confessed the whole truth, begging pardon of their honours for giving them so much trouble, and professing he was as loyal a subject of King William as anyone in the three kingdoms: adding, that he had been reduced to extreme necessity and could think of no other way of coming up to London. Those who examined him could see no reason for disbelieving what he said; and therefore, though they were a little offended that such an insignificant fellow should make free with men in their high station, yet, as there appeared something so masterly in the invention and execution of this piece of policy, they could not help forgiving him, and laughing at the affair among themselves, while they dismissed him with an air of severity and abundance of threatenings, which they were to execute if ever he did such a thing again. But Morell knew as well as they could tell him that

WILLIAM MORELL

once was enough to play such a trick as this upon secretaries of State.

This man was as great a gallant as anyone we have ever heard of, for his story informs us that he had no less than **six** wives living at one time in different parts of the kingdom, it being customary with him to marry for the sake of enjoying his desires when he could prevail upon the woman he had a fancy to no other way.

There was scarce a character to be thought of in which Morell did not at one time or other appear, and always with success; sometimes he was a fortune-teller and astrologer, sometimes a decayed gentleman, sometimes a clergyman, and sometimes a foreigner who left his own country for the sake of religion. There was no shape, no pretence that might move pity but he put on, and never failed of gaining belief. Not a few times he was a man of great fortune, and made love to the richest young ladies he could hear of, having his servants at his heels, like our modern Irish fortune hunters, there being always men wicked enough to assist in such enterprises, with a view to sharing in the booty. Two or three virtuous women he married and ruined by these means, besides making a great many cuckolds, and winning abundance to his desires who never submitted to the common ceremony, most of whom he wheedled out of a pretty deal of money and afterwards blasted their characters, taking care to let their husbands know their foibles, if they were married, or, if they were single, to send an account of his success to their friends or sweethearts, if they had any.

He continued these practices so long in every part of the country that it was become dangerous for him to continue them any longer. Several gentlemen made inquiry after him, in order to have him punished for personating them in places where they had interest and were not personally known, by which means he imposed upon abundance of tradesmen and cheated them of their goods. In short, he had no hopes left of hiding himself anywhere but in London.

Being in town, and having got such information as was necessary for his proceeding, he applied himself for lodging

NEWGATE CALENDAR

to a rich baker in the Strand, telling him that his name was Humphry Wickham, Esq., of —.

The baker knew the family of the Wickhams very well, being their countryman, though he was not acquainted with the gentleman who at present enjoyed the estate, as he had not been in the country for a great many years. However he made no scruple of entertaining our sham esquire. Nay, he was so far from it that he caressed him, and returned him a thousand thanks for doing him so much honour as to reside at his house. Morell told him that he had a private affair in town, which would detain him for some time, and that he came in such an obscure manner because he was not willing to be known; his own family, all but his steward and the man who waited on him, being ignorant of the place of his residence. He added that when the business was over he would inform him of the particulars, and take him down to his country seat with him for a month or two.

Several days passed, and still our baker was satisfied, never mentioning a word to any of his friends concerning Mr Wickham, lest he should injure him in the business of which he spoke. A fellow in a livery came every morning, cap in hand, to receive his worship's commands, and was very diligent in dispatching everything he set him about. After about a week our good-natured host heard Mr Wickham talk aloud to his man about the steward's neglect in not sending up the linen and money which he had written for. Proud to make a merit of this carelessness of the servant, he took the first opportunity to tell his worship in a very submissive manner what he had overheard, desiring him to make use of what he had till his own box came, and complaining that he did not honour him so far as to let him know his necessity. Our pretended esquire protested he was ashamed to abuse his generosity. However, as he had understood how things were, he would accept of his love. Upon this the baker in a minute fetches down half-a-dozen of his best holland shirts, one of which Mr Wickham put on, and prevailed on his worship further to accept of fifty guineas till his money arrived.

WILLIAM MORELL

The next day after this Morell fell sick, and now is the time that we are to see him play such a farce as was never before heard of. As soon as his illness was known, a doctor was sent for, who found him in a high fever, and wrote a prescription to the apothecary, in conjunction with whom he waited on him every day afterwards. The baker asked him if he should write into the country, but Mr Wickham said no, for he had never a wife, and servants would but disturb him, so that he had rather they should know nothing of the matter till he saw how it was like to go with him. The fever began to increase, and after a few days his life was thought in danger. The doctor told him his sentiments freely, and he desired Mr Baker to send for an attorney to make his will, which was accordingly done, and the writing lodged in the hands of our landlord, whom he enjoined to open it as soon as he was dead, which was no longer than the next day.

Now the neighbours are sent for and the will is unsealed. The baker is constituted one of the executors; a considerable estate is given him, besides abundance of plate, linen and jewels to his wife, and large legacies to all his children; several sums are allotted to charitable uses; all the servants are rewarded according to their places and merit. He is to be interred in town, and the whole management of the funeral is left to the care of his good friend the baker, who is over and over again mentioned with a good deal of respect. To complete all, the lawyer is named who has all the writings of his estates, and who is to produce the several sums of money at the time specified.

The baker knew the lawyer whom he mentioned, and was certain that he used to do business for the family. He did not, however, go to him directly, as he had money in the house to defray necessary expenses, and as he was willing to show as much respect as possible to the deceased. His house is hung with mourning, a leaden coffin is made, the body is embowelled, and laid in state. The best of cloth and silk is bought for himself and family, besides rings and other particulars. An undertaker is agreed with, and in short everything is got ready for solemnising the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

obsequies on such a day, till when wax tapers are continually burning in the room where the corpse lies.

The day before the interment was to be, our baker goes to the lawyer and invites him, telling him the particulars of Mr Wickham's will, and desiring he would let him have some money in a few days to pay such things as were not paid, because he had exhausted all his cash. The lawyer was startled to hear him talk of Mr Wickham's death, he having received a letter from him but the day before on some special business. It was a pretty while before they could come to a right understanding. At last all was found to be an imposture, and confirmed by a letter from the fellow who had waited upon Morell, and who was willing to make some merit of discovering a cheat which he could no longer carry on. The body was now stripped of all its finery and thrown with little ceremony into a common grave in St Clement's Churchyard.

This was the end of Morell, in the year 1700. An account of the affair was soon sent to the real Mr Wickham, who, being a man of honour and generosity, made up the baker's loss, telling him that though he had been thus imposed on, he looked on the deed as though it really had been done to himself. The undertaker and all who had furnished anything towards the funeral considered the case, and took their goods again as they were.

JOHN LARKIN

*Who committed so many Forgeries and Cheats that he
had not Time to confess them all before he
died, on 19th of April, 1700*

JOHN LARKIN was born at Antrim, in Ireland, of very creditable parents, who, observing that their son possessed a very considerable share of genius, took some pains to cultivate it by a liberal education.

When he had been some years at school, and obtained a competent knowledge of several arts and sciences, he was

JOHN LARKIN

entered as a student in the University of Glasgow, in Scotland, where he went through his studies with applause, and then, returning to Ireland, commenced as schoolmaster, in which station he behaved himself so well that he met with the greatest success; but being of an unsettled disposition he left his school, and taking upon him the gown visited the remotest parts of the kingdom and officiated in several places as a clergyman.

After some time he came to England, and was made master of a free school in Lancashire, where he had about a hundred scholars under his care; but he was so bad an economist that he could by no means live within the bounds of his income, and was therefore frequently contriving some new methods by which he might support his extravagance.

At length he came to a resolution to forge bonds and other papers, in which pernicious practices he became so great a proficient that he said he could forge almost any hand so artfully that it would be difficult for a person to know his own handwriting from the forgery.

He acknowledged that he had frequently affixed the hand of a bishop and several other eminent divines to letters-testimonial, by which he had collected considerable sums of money, under pretence of redeeming poor Christian captives who were in slavery.

He used also to forge goldsmiths' notes and bills of exchange, and continued these practices for a considerable time, but being at length detected he was pilloried, and committed to prison till such time as he should discharge a fine which was imposed on him, and which was so large that he had little or no hopes of regaining his liberty.

While he remained in prison some persons, who were afterwards evidences against him at his trial, used to coin money, and endeavoured to prevail upon him to assist them; but he declared that he constantly refused to do it, that he never shared any money with them, and had no further concern than merely as a spectator. But as the contrary to this had been so positively sworn, the ordinary of Newgate suspected his sincerity, and urged him to make an ingenuous

NEWGATE CALENDAR

confession. To which he replied that he knew his duty extremely well, though he had acted contrary to it; but if it should be his fate to die, he would, at the place of execution, discover something which might be a warning to several persons who had been concerned in the like wicked practices with himself.

At the place of execution he informed the ordinary that being confined in Newgate with one Charles Newey, who was convicted of felony, and had been fined and pilloried for suborning an evidence to swear falsely, he was prevailed upon by Newey, in consideration of a sum of money, to write a scurrilous libel, called *The Case of Captain Charles Newey*, containing very notorious falsehoods and scandalous reflections on the Lord Chief Baron, the Recorder, and other judges who tried the said Newey; for which he now sincerely begged pardon of those gentlemen.

He took a decent leave of the spectators, and having returned thanks to the ordinary for his charitable visits to him while under condemnation, he delivered him a paper in which he said that though he was not guilty of the crime of coining (for which he died), yet that he had committed so many forgeries, cheats, etc., that it was almost impossible to recount them. He thought it his duty to make all the reparation in his power, by leaving the world a true narrative of all his irregular proceedings, but not having sufficient time to complete such a work, he mentioned only certain circumstances, which included a pretended plot, supposed to have been carried on by the Earls of Marlborough (whose hand he counterfeited with so much dexterity that it was very difficult to discern the true from the false) and Salisbury, the Bishop of Rochester, and several others.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 19th of April, 1700.

MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE
VAN BERGHEN AND DROMELIUS,
THEIR SERVANT, PUBLICANS

*Executed 10th of July, 1700, for the Murder of their Guest,
Mr Oliver Norris*

THESE criminals were natives of Holland, who, having settled in England, kept a public-house in East Smithfield in 1700, and where Geraldus Dromelius acted as their servant. Mr Oliver Norris was a country gentleman who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, and who went into the house of Van Berghen about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid-servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so her mistress whispered to her, and bade her return in a little time and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse containing a sum of money; whereupon he returned and charged Van Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he refused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper. At this time Dromelius entered the room, and threatening Mr Norris in a cavalier manner, the latter resented the insult, and at length a quarrel ensued. At this juncture, Van Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr Norris's skull, and in the meantime Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body, Mrs Van Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act. When Mr Norris was dead they stripped him of his coat, waistcoat, hat, wig, etc., and then Van Berghen and Dromelius carried the body and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames; and in the meantime Mrs Van Berghen washed

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The clothes which had been stripped from the deceased were put up in a hamper and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland. The next morning, at low water, the body of a man was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed ; but not succeeding in this, some of them who were up at a very early hour recollected that they had seen Van Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found, and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van Berghen's house. Upon this the house was searched ; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room which appeared to have been lately mopped. Inquiry was made after Dromelius, but Van Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their service. On which they were taken into custody, with the servant-maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this time the waterman who had carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knew him very well, appeared, and he was likewise taken into custody. The prisoners were tried by a jury of half Englishmen and half foreigners, to whom all the circumstances above mentioned appeared so striking that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty, and accordingly they received sentence of death.

They were executed near the Hartshorn brewhouse, East Smithfield, being the nearest convenient spot to the place where the murder was committed, on the 10th of July, in the year 1700. The bodies of the men were hung in chains between Bow and Mile End, but the woman was buried.

JOHN HOLLIDAY OR SIMPSON

Housebreaker and Highwayman, who robbed a King and a Church, and was hanged at Tyburn in 1700

THIS man, whose career of villainy in England was not long, had committed a variety of depredations in Flanders, where he served as a soldier under King William III. On the Peace of Ryswick he received his discharge, and with several of his confederates in acts of villainy repaired to London, where they formed themselves into a gang of robbers, of which Holliday, under the name of Simpson, was appointed their captain. They were alternately highwaymen and housebreakers.

In the year 1700 Holliday was indicted in the name of Simpson for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Gawden, of stealing thereout two feather beds and other articles; to which he pleaded guilty, and was, for that offence, hanged at Tyburn.

While under sentence of death he said that his name was not Simpson, but Holliday, and that during a great part of the war in the reign of King William he was a soldier in Flanders, where he used to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers; and once, when the army lay before Mons, and his Majesty commanded in person, Simpson happened to be one of those who were selected to guard the Royal tent. On an evening when the King, accompanied by the Earl (afterwards Duke) of Marlborough and Lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the situation of the army, Simpson, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himself, went into his Majesty's tent and stole about a thousand pounds. It was some days before this money was missed, and when the robbery was discovered, Simpson escaped all suspicion. He said he had committed more robberies than he could possibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a housebreaker.

He committed numerous robberies in Flanders as well as in England, and he affirmed that the gates of the city of

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Ghent had been twice shut up within a fortnight to prevent his escape; and that when he was taken, his arms, legs, back and neck were secured with irons; in which condition he was carried through the streets, that he might be seen by the crowd.

Simpson and two of his companions used frequently to stop and rob the Roman Catholics at five o'clock in the morning as they were going to Mass; he repeatedly broke into the churches of Brussels, Mechlin and Antwerp, and stole the silver plate from the altar.

This offender further acknowledged that, having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried and condemned for the fact by a court martial of officers, and sentenced to be executed on the following day, in sight of the army, which was to be drawn up to see the execution. During the night, however, he found means to escape, and took refuge in the Church of St Peter, in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of sanctuary, he applied to the priests, who made interest with Prince Eugene; and their joint intercession with King William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he was permitted immediately to join the army.

A few days after he had obtained his pardon he broke into the church and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church and knew where the plate was deposited. He was apprehended on suspicion of this sacrilege; for as a crime of this kind is seldom committed by the natives of the country it was conjectured that it must have been perpetrated by some one at least of the soldiers. And information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheldt for Middleburg, on the day succeeding the robbery, and that Simpson had been seen in company with these Jews, this occasioned his being taken into custody. But as no proof arose that he had sold any plate to these men, it was thought necessary to dismiss him.

GEORGE GRIFFITHS

Who courted his Master's Daughter and then robbed him.

Hanged at Tyburn on 1st of August, 1700

THIS young man received the education of a gentleman, was articled as clerk to an attorney of high repute, and enjoyed the utmost latitude of confidence in his master. He was born at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk, and was the son of an eminent apothecary of that town. On the expiration of the term of his clerkship he was retained by his master, on a handsome salary, to manage his business, and he discharged his duty for a considerable time with great regularity; but unhappily, becoming acquainted with some young lawyers who possessed more money than discretion, he soon spent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and also became indebted to several of his master's employers.

During a great part of Griffiths's servitude the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-school at Windsor for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requested that she would take his domestic affairs under her own management.

This old gentleman being frequently from home, the business of the office was committed to the care of Mr Griffiths; and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company he spent all those evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was that their acquaintance ripened into esteem; their esteem into love. The reciprocal declaration soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

Some short time after this attachment Griffiths was under the necessity of attending his master on the Norfolk Circuit, and while he was in the country he held a constant correspondence with the young lady; but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had passed, and had not formed

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the least idea that his daughter had any kind of connection with his clerk. But at length the circumstance of the affair transpired in the following manner.

The daughter having gone to Windsor for a few days, on a visit to her former acquaintance, continued to correspond with Mr Griffiths. On a particular day, when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of consequence, carried it to the master, at an adjacent coffee-house. It is impossible that any language could express the surprise of the old gentleman when he saw the name of his daughter subscribed to a letter in which she acknowledged herself as the future wife of the clerk.

The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune, but he soon found that he had been master of sufficient art to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was possessed of considerable property. Hereupon he represented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct; in answer to which she said that Mr Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumstance from her father. However, it was not long before a discovery was made which presented Mr Griffiths's situation in a light equally new and contemptible.

His master, for a considerable time past, had acted as the solicitor in a capital cause depending in Chancery; but the determination respecting it had been put off on account of Lord Somers being removed from the office of Chancellor and the Great Seal given in commission to Sir Nathan Wright. The solicitor had received immense sums while the cause was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk; but the latter, pressed for cash to supply his extravagance, purloined some of this money. At length the cause was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account to his master for the money in his hands.

Alarmed at this sudden demand, he knew not what course to take. He came to the resolution of breaking open his

GEORGE GRIFFITHS

master's bureau, which he did while the family were asleep, and stole a considerable sum of money. At this time the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and during their residence at that place of amusement Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his master's bureau, from whence again he took money to a considerable amount. On the master's return he missed this sum, but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked; but hereupon he deposited his jewels in the bureau, and locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady still continued, and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which (happily for her) brought their connection to a period.

Griffiths being (as already observed) possessed of a key that would open his master's bureau, and disposed to go out and spend a cheerful evening with his old associates, now, during their absence, opened the drawer, but was greatly disappointed in not meeting with the money that was usually left there: finding, however, jewels in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller and sold for twelve pounds, and then went to spend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and casually looking into his drawer found the ring was gone; and, being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched, but no discovery was made.

However, a discovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery was made in the following singular manner. The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the same coffee-house with the gentleman who had lost it, and was intimately acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller, having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, concluded that it had been obtained in an illegal manner, and, being a man who was much above the idea of having his integrity suspected, he related the particulars of his purchase at the coffee-house, which the person who had lost the ring hearing, desired to

NEWGATE CALENDAR

have a sight of it; and on the first inspection knew it to be that which he had lost.

The person of Griffiths was now so exactly described by the jeweller that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was desired to go to the chambers with a constable, and take him into custody. He was carried before a Justice of the Peace and accused of the crime, which he immediately confessed, and likewise that he had robbed his master of money.

Griffiths was committed to Newgate, and being arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was passed on him accordingly. He died a penitent, at Tyburn, the 1st of August, 1700.

THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER, M.A.

*Executed on 22nd of August, 1700, near Edinburgh, for
the diabolical Murder out of Revenge of the Two
Children of Mr Gordon*

THIS detestable culprit was born in the county of Fife, in Scotland, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University of St Andrews for education. When he had acquired a sufficient share of classical learning he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success. Several of the younger clergymen act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years in the house of Mr Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, which is a rank equal to that of alderman of London.

Mr Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some

THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER

clerks and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons; and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius and great goodness of heart. Unfortunately a connection took place between Hunter and the young woman, which soon increased to a criminal degree, and was maintained for a considerable time without the knowledge of the family. One day, however, when Mr and Mrs Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as usual; but, having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse. No suspicion was entertained that these children would mention to their parents what had happened, the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age; but when the children were at supper with their parents they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had passed. Hereupon the female servant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again. From this period he entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention; but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution. Whenever it was a fine day he was accustomed to walk in the fields with his pupils for an hour before dinner, and in these excursions the young lady generally attended her brothers.

At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal act Mr Gordon and his family were at their country retreat, very near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his

NEWGATE CALENDAR

noontide walk with the children. Mrs Gordon was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit, but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that only the little girl should attend them. By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held the resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, 1700, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies and gathering wild flowers. Having sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him, and when he had reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him; but he immediately followed and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one while he cut the throat of the other with his penknife, and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first. These horrid murders were committed within half-a-mile of the Castle of Edinburgh; and as the deed was perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody. At the very time a gentleman was walking on the Castle hill of Edinburgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed. Alarmed by the incident, he called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead. Hunter now had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river; and his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr and Mrs Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid murder of their sons. Language is too weak to describe the effects

JOHN COWLAND

resulting from the communication of this dreadful news; the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the frantic mother, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted. According to an old Scottish law it was decreed that "if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his clothes, he should be prosecuted in the Sheriff's Court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact." The prisoner was therefore committed to jail and chained down to the floor all night, and on the following day the sheriff issued his precept for the jury to meet; and in consequence of their verdict Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and added to the offence he had already committed the horrid crime of declaring that he only lamented not having murdered Mr Gordon's daughter as well as his sons. The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that "on the succeeding day he should be executed on a gibbet, erected for that purpose on the spot where he had committed the murders; but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet by a rope, and when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck through his hand, which should be advanced over his head and fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet." Mr Hunter was executed in strict conformity to the above sentence on the 22nd of August, 1700.

JOHN COWLAND, GENTLEMAN

*Who suffered Death on 20th of December, 1700, for
stabbing Sir Andrew Slanning, Baronet, near
Drury Lane Theatre*

SIR ANDREW SLANNING, having made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury Lane playhouse, retired with her as soon as the play was ended, and was followed by Mr Cowland and

NEWGATE CALENDAR

some other gentlemen. They had gone but a few yards before Mr Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife. Cowland, knowing that Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides; but some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill consequences ensued.

They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose Tavern, and Captain Waggett having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that his mediation was attended with success; but as they were going upstairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr Cowland drew his sword and stabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who, finding himself wounded, cried out "Murder!"

Hereupon one of Lord Warwick's servants and two other persons who were in the house ran up and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew, which being granted, he jumped down the stairs and endeavoured to make his escape, but being pursued he was easily retaken.

He was instantly conducted before a Justice of the Peace, who committed him; and on the 5th of December, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey on three indictments: the first at common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the coroner's inquest for the murder.

The facts above mentioned were fully proved on the trial, and among other things it was deposed that the deceased had possessed an estate of twenty thousand pounds a year, that his family became extinct by his death, and that he had been a gentleman of great good nature, and by no means disposed to quarrel.

Mr Cowland being found guilty on the clearest evidence received sentence of death, and, though great efforts were made to obtain a pardon for him, he was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of December, 1700.

CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD

Known as the "Wizard of the Seas," who suffered for Piracy, at Execution Dock, 23rd of May, 1701

CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD was born at Greenock, in Scotland, and being bred as a sailor he eventually became known as the "Wizard of the Seas."

Having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. While in their company he used to converse and act as they did ; yet at other times he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be to extirpate these abandoned people, and prevent their future depredations. His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who, forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. For a series of years great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North America, on account of the advantage they derived from purchasing effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of King William III., he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New York on the Earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman of distinguished character and abilities, who immediately began to consider the most effectual method to redress the evils complained of, and consulted with Colonel Levingston, a gentleman who had great property in New York, on the most feasible steps to obviate the evils.

At this juncture Captain Kidd had arrived from New York in a sloop of his own ; him, therefore, the Colonel mentioned to Lord Bellamont as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he

NEWGATE CALENDAR

was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted to. This plan met with the fullest approbation of his lordship, who mentioned the affair to his Majesty, and recommended it to the notice of the Board of Admiralty. But such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs that, though the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution. Accordingly Colonel Levingston made application to Lord Bellamont that as the affair would not well admit of delay it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expense, notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it. His lordship approved of this project, but it was attended with considerable difficulty. At length, however, Lord Chancellor Somers, the Duke of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Romney, the Earl of Oxford and some other persons, with Colonel Levingston and Captain Kidd, agreed to raise six thousand pounds for the expense of the voyage; and the Colonel and Captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking. Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission in the usual form was granted to Captain Kidd to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice.

Accordingly a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the *Adventure* galley; and in this Captain Kidd sailed for New York towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made prize of a French ship. From New York he sailed to the Madeira Islands, thence to Bonavista and St Jago, and from this last place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea, but not being successful in those latitudes he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons' burthen, which he carried to Madagascar and disposed of there. Having sold his prize he again put to sea, and at the expiration of five weeks took the *Quedah* merchant, a ship of above four hundred tons' burthen, the master of which was an Englishman named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board and a French gunner, but

CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD

the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number. He carried the ship to St Mary's, near Madagascar, where he burned the *Adventure* galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the *Quedah* merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself. They then went on board the last-mentioned ship and sailed for the West Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West India Islands knew that Kidd was a pirate, but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St Thomas's, and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curaçao.

He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the *Quedah* merchant, with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him and went on board the *Mocha* merchant, an East India ship, which had just then commenced as pirate. Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then steered for Boston, in New England. In the interim Bolton sold the *Quedah* merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed as a passenger in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what had happened to Lord Bellamont. Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized, by order of his lordship; when all he had to urge in his defence was that he thought the *Quedah* merchant was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy. Upon this, the Earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship be sent for Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship *Rochester* was accordingly sent to bring him to England; but this vessel, happening to be disabled, was obliged to return—a circumstance that greatly increased a public clamour which had for some time

NEWGATE CALENDAR

subsisted respecting this affair, and which, no doubt, took its rise from party prejudice. It was carried to such a height that the Members of Parliament for several places were instructed to move the House for an inquiry into the affair; and accordingly it was moved in the House of Commons that "The letters-patent granted to the Earl of Bellamont and others respecting the goods taken from pirates were dishonourable to the King, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property, and destructive to commerce." Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of Lord Somers and the Earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even insinuated that the Earl of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders.

As soon as Kidd arrived in England he was sent for, and examined at the bar of the House of Commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition; but nothing arose to incriminate any of those distinguished persons. Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the House; on which a member, who had been one of the most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed: "This fellow I thought had been only a knave, but unfortunately he happens to be a fool likewise." Kidd was at length tried at the Old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence; but neither at that time nor afterwards charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings. He suffered, with one of his companions (Darby Mullins), at Execution Dock, on the 23rd day of May, 1701. After Kidd had been tied up to the gallows the rope broke and he fell to the ground; but being immediately tied up again, the ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more; and on this second application entreated him to make the most careful use of the few further moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These

HERMAN STRODTMAN

exhortations appeared to have the wished-for effect; and he was left, professing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

HERMAN STRODTMAN

Executed at Tyburn, 18th of June, 1701, for the Murder of Peter Wolter, his Fellow-Apprentice

HERMAN STRODTMAN was a German, being born of a respectable family at Revel, in Lisland, who gave him a good education and brought him up strictly in the tenets of the Protestant religion. About the year 1694 young Strodtman, with a friend and schoolfellow, named Peter Wolter, were, by their respective parents, sent in company to London, where they were both bound apprentices to the then eminent Dutch house of Stein & Dorien.

They served their masters some time with diligence, and lived together in great harmony until a sister of Wolter married very advantageously, which so buoyed up the brother with pride that he assumed a superiority over his fellow-apprentice, and this led to the fatal catastrophe. This arrogance produced quarrelling, and from words they proceeded to blows, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice, at one time in the counting-house, and at another before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise traduced Strodtman to his masters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-apprentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred against him, and resolved to murder him, in some way or other. His first intention was to have poisoned him, and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bedroom as a remedy for the scurvy; but this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing.

This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman desired one of the maids to intimate to his masters his inclination to be sent to the West Indies ; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew again uneasy, and his enmity to his fellow-apprentice increased to such a degree that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission of his situation, as the most probable method of securing his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice ; but determined on the execution of the fatal plan which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good Friday, Strodtman was sent out on business, but instead of transacting it he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday to perpetrate the murder ; but reflecting that his fellow-apprentice was to receive the Sacrament on Easter Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's Supper. Wherefore he sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be sent to Chatham on Easter Monday and put on board a ship in the Royal Navy ; but while he was at Greenwich he was met by a young gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messrs Stein & Dorien he believed that the story of his being impressed was all invention. Hereupon Mr Stein went to Chatham to inquire into the real state of the case, when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Easter Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London and slept at the Dolphin Inn, in Bishopsgate Street. On the following day he returned to Greenwich, and continued either at that place or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood till Tuesday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard Street, and returned to Greenwich on the Wednesday. Coming again to London on the evening of

HERMAN STRODTMAN

the succeeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich ; but going to the house of his masters, he told them that what he had written was true, for that he had been pressed. They gave no credit to this tale, but told him they had inquired into the affair, and bid him quit their house. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun, in Queen Street, London.

Before the preceding Christmas he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his masters' house, that he might go in and out at his pleasure. Originally he intended to have made no worse use of this key ; but, it being still in his possession, he let himself into the house between eight and nine o'clock on the evening of the Saturday last mentioned, and hearing the footsteps of some persons going upstairs he concealed himself behind a door in the passage. As soon as the noise arising from this circumstance was over, he went up one pair of stairs to a room adjoining the counting-house, where he used to sleep, and, having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle and put it into his masters' dark lantern, which he carried upstairs to an empty room, next to that in which Peter Wolter used to lie. Here he continued a short time, when, hearing somebody coming upstairs, he put out his candle, and fell asleep soon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock he listened for a while, and hearing no noise he imagined that the whole family were fast asleep. Hereupon he descended to the room on the first floor where the tinder-box lay ; and having lighted his candle he went to the counting-house, and took a sum of money and several notes and bills. This being done, he took a piece of wood, with which they used to beat tobacco, and going upstairs again he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and advancing to his bedside struck him violently on the head ; and though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow and, laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Perceiving Wolter to be dead, he searched his chest of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above eight pounds. He then packed up some linen and woollen clothes, and going down one pair of stairs threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

He then went upstairs again, and having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed on a chair close to the bed-curtains, and the other on a chest of drawers, with a view to setting the house on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the house where he had thrown his bundle, and in this place he stayed till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen Street, where he shifted his apparel, and went to the Swedish church in Trinity Lane. After the worship of the congregation was ended he heard a bill of thanks read, which his masters had sent in devout acknowledgment of the narrow escape that they and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumstance, Strodtman burst into tears; but he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his emotion from a gentleman who sat in the same pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the house of Messrs Stein & Dorien narrowly escaped being burned the preceding night, by an accident then unknown, but that the destruction was providentially prevented by the Dutch maid smelling the fire and seeing the smoke, so that on her alarming her master the flames were extinguished by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information on the outer walks of the Royal Exchange in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy; but, the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney church, and after service was ended he walked towards Mile End, where he saw the bodies of Michael Van Berghen and Dromelius, who had been hung in chains, as before mentioned. This sight gave

HERMAN STRODTMAN

him a shocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected that he might soon become a like horrid spectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he saw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave fresh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a similar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the sight of objects which he would otherwise rather have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from repenting, or even being properly sensible of the crime he had committed; for, as he himself said, his heart did not yet relent for what he had done, and if he had failed in murdering his fellow-apprentice in his bed, he would have destroyed him some other way.

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horse Inn without Cripplegate to receive cash for a bill of twenty pounds, which he had stolen from his masters' house; but the person who was to have paid it being out he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker in Lombard Street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission; but before he left the house the banker told him that a young man, named Green, had been to inquire for him; on which Strodtman said that if Mr Green returned he should be informed that he would be back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this answer he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's in Lombard Street, where his master, Stein, with Mr Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr Stein asked him if he would go willingly to his house, or be carried by porters; and he replied that he would go of his own accord. When

NEWGATE CALENDAR

he came there he was asked some questions respecting the atrocious crimes of which he had been guilty ; but persisting that he was innocent he was searched, and the twenty-pound bill found in his possession. They then inquired where he lodged ; to which he answered : "In Moorfields" ; whereupon they all went thither together, but the people denied his lodging there at that time. Mr Stein, finding him unwilling to speak the truth, told him that if he would make a full discovery he should be sent abroad out of the reach of justice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings ; on which they went thither in a coach, and finding the bills, and other stolen effects, Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphrey Edwin, who committed him to Newgate, on his own confession.

He was not tried at the first sessions after his commitment, and in the interval that he lay in prison some bad people who were confined there trumped up an idle tale for him to tell when he came to trial, and prevailed on him to plead not guilty—a circumstance which he afterwards sincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were so many corroborative proofs of his guilt that the jury could not hesitate to convict him, and he received the sentence awarded by law.

He died full of contrition, penitence and hope, and suffered at Tyburn, on the 18th of June, 1701 ; and it was remarked that he kept his hand lifted up for a considerable time after the cart was drawn away.

MARY CHANNEL

*Famous for her Wit and Beauty, compelled to marry a
Man she detested, poisoned him, and was executed
in April, 1703, at the age of 18*

MARY CHANNEL was the daughter of one Mr Woods, a person of good repute, who resided in a little village near Dorchester, in the county of Dorset. He was a person of known wealth and good credit, who,

MARY CHANNEL

by his industry and diligence, daily increased his riches. Perceiving his daughter to be of a promising disposition, and amiable both in body and mind, he gave her a liberal education, to improve and refine those good qualifications by art and study wherewith she was liberally endowed by the bounty of nature. She made so speedy a progress in her learning that she soon outvied her schoolfellows; and the strong imagination, polite behaviour and majestic graces in her carriage so lively displayed themselves that she became the mirror and discourse of all who knew her. Though her birth gave place to those of the highest rank and quality, yet her education was not inferior to them; and her incomparable wit, united with her beautiful presence, rendered her so agreeable that she was to be preferred even to many of a superior rank.

Her charms did not consist in adorning and dressing herself in magnificent and gay attire, decked with pearls and diamonds, which gives a false gloss of beauty to persons whose natures are opposite, and only serve to brighten the lustre of their pretended fine qualities. In a word, she was generally esteemed the most celebrated wit and accomplished beauty of her age.

Being now in the flower of her youth and bloom of her beauty, she had several suitors of good repute, who all became captives to her beauty, and hardly did they find themselves ensnared but they had the boldness to flatter themselves with the hopes of one day possessing such a charming object. Amongst the rest, one Mr Channel, a wealthy grocer of Dorchester, came to pay his respects to her, who, for the great riches he enjoyed, was gratefully accepted by her parents, though by her altogether contemned and slighted. He had nothing to recommend him but his wealth, which was as much superior to the rest of her suitors as his person was inferior to them: his limbs and body were in some measure ill proportioned, and his features in no wise agreeable; but what rendered him the more detestable and ridiculous in her sight was his splay-foot, which did not in the least concur with her sublime and

NEWGATE CALENDAR

lofty temper. Her father, evidently perceiving the addresses of Mr Channel were received and accepted by her with scorn and reproofs, entreated her to receive him with less disdain and listen to his respectful addresses. Being weary, however, of his fond familiarities, she determined to abandon herself from him, and never more admit him into her presence or society. She had no sooner put her design into execution but it reached her father's ears, who kept a more strict guard and watchful eye over her behaviour and conduct, and forthwith continued his absurd and unreasonable expostulations and imprudent menaces to enforce and augment her love. She in vain endeavoured to excuse herself, by disputing the most solid and rational arguments; but how much the more she persisted, by so much the more her parents' resolution was incensed and irritated, pressing her to consent to a speedy marriage, and telling her she would discharge the duty under which she was obligated to them by assenting to and complying with their commands. At length, being continually fatigued and importuned by her parents to have the marriage solemnised, she consented, though with the greatest reluctance. And on the day appointed the ceremony was ordained.

Having now gratified her parents' desire, and yielded to their compulsions, by putting the finishing stroke to her marriage, she still continued her slights and contempts towards her husband, and he became the entire object of her scorn. Soon after the solemnisation of the marriage she began to plot and contrive new scenes of tragedies, and her thoughts were chiefly employed and taken up in studying what measures to take to get rid of her husband, and set herself at liberty. Nothing would satisfy her enormous desires but his death, which she determined to bring about by poison. And, in order thereto, she sent her maid to the apothecary's for some white mercury, telling her it was to kill rats and mice; though it is certain her design was reverse, which she intended to fulfil as soon as opportunity would give reins to her vicious inclinations. A little after she gave orders for rice milk to be made for breakfast. That

MARY CHANNEL

morning, particularly, she was observed to demonstrate a seeming diligence in procuring everyone their proper messes; and no one was permitted to serve her husband but herself. Accordingly she prepared and gave him the poisonous draught, mixed and infused with the mercury, which she had reserved for this desperate use, and which proved his fatal dish. After he had eaten somewhat liberally he discovered an ill savour in his milk, and said it tasted amiss. Hereupon he offered his wife's brother (a youth who boarded with him) to taste it; but she would by no means permit her brother to comply with this reasonable request, which caused a strong suspicion throughout the family. Then Mr Channel required the maid to taste it; but she had no sooner taken it into her hands than her mistress in a violent passion caught it from her, and forthwith conveyed it away. It was now too late to recall what had passed, or to seek for refuge; for his body presently began to swell vehemently, perceiving which, the domestics immediately sent for a doctor. But the infused mercury had so great an effect upon him that no remedy could expel it, and he expired before the physicians came to his assistance. Having thus resigned his breath, and there being visible proofs of his being poisoned, it was not without reason she was suspected to be the principal and only actress and procurer thereof. Thereupon she was immediately seized and conveyed before a justice, before whom she entirely denied the fact; nevertheless, on her servants' information, he committed her to Dorchester Jail.

At the assizes ensuing at Dorchester the defence she made (whether it was real or pretended) was so full of wit and ingenuity, and uttered with such an extraordinary courage and humility, that it caused admiration in the judges, and pity and compassion in all who heard her trial. But this availed nothing; for the evidences appearing plain against her, and the friends of her deceased husband being very substantial people, she received sentence to be burned at the stake till she was dead.

The day whereon she was to suffer being come, she was

NEWGATE CALENDAR

guarded by proper officers to the place of execution, with her hood veiled over her face. After she had uttered some private ejaculations she pulled off her gown and white silk hood and delivered them to her maid—who accompanied her to the stake—and then suffered death, according to the sentence before pronounced against her, declaring her faith in Christ; and to the last continued to exclaim against her parents' constraints, which had been the sole cause of her torturing death. Thus at a small distance from the town of Dorchester she yielded her breath, in or about the month of April, Anno Domini 1703, in the eighteenth year of her age, being greatly bewailed and lamented, though the sentence was acknowledged to be just and lawful.

TIM BUCKLEY

*Highwayman, who fell after a hot Battle, and was
hanged in 1701*

TIMOTHY BUCKLEY was as unparalleled a villain as ever lived in this kingdom. He was born of very honest parents at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, where he served three years to a shoemaker; but then, running away from his master, he came up to London, and soon became acquainted with ill company, whose vices he followed to support him in a most scandalous and infamous course of life. Having spent a great deal of his ill-gotten money at a blind ale-house in Wapping, he once asked the victualler to lend him ten shillings, which favour he denied him; and Tim so highly resented his ingratitude that he left frequenting his house. Not long after, Tim and some of his thieving companions, breaking in by night, bound the victualler, his wife and maid, both hand and foot, and robbed the house, taking thence forty pounds laid by for the brewer, three silver tankards, a silver watch and eight gold rings.

Another time, on Tim taking a walk towards Hyde Park Corner, the air of which place is generally very unwholesome for a thief to take, it was his fortune to meet

TIM BUCKLEY

with that famous merry-andrew and mountebank, Dr Cately. He commanded that illiterately learned gentleman to stand and deliver. Our doctor, preferring his own welfare before what he had about him, humbly presented Tim with six guineas and a very good watch, that he might keep time in spending the gold.

An informing constable, who was a baker in St Giles-in-the-Fields parish, once took up Tim, sending him as a soldier into Flanders. He had not been long there before he deserted and came to London again; and one day meeting this baker's wife coming alone from Hampstead he forced her into a private place, and presenting a pistol to her breast swore he would shoot her dead on the spot if she refused his request, he being bent upon it to be revenged on her husband, who had impressed him a little while ago. The baker's wife being no Lucretia, to value her chastity at the loss of her life, was forced to submit, and Tim then commanded her to deliver her money and such other things of worth as she had about her. So taking from her a couple of gold rings and eleven shillings he sent her home to tell her husband of this adventure.

Afterwards, Tim Buckley, stealing a very good horse in Buckinghamshire, turned highwayman, and riding up to London met on the road a certain pawnbroker living in Drury Lane. Tim having been the loser in pawning some things to him, which were lost for want of redeeming, was resolved to have his pennyworth out of him now, so commanded him to stand and deliver. The pawnbroker, being very loath to go to the devil before his time, ransomed himself for twenty-eight guineas, a gold watch, a silver tobacco-box and a couple of gold rings.

Another time, Tim Buckley, meeting a stock-jobber on the road who had formerly prosecuted him for felony, upon conviction whereof he was burned in the hand, was resolved to be revenged on him, by robbing him of forty-eight guineas.

Not long after, this same stock-jobber, accidentally meeting Tim Buckley in London, caused him to be apprehended,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and committed to Newgate, and convicting him of this robbery, he received sentence of death. But obtaining a reprieve, and afterwards pleading for a free pardon, as soon as he was at liberty, resolving to be further revenged on this adversary who had twice sat very close on his skirts, he went to Hackney, where this stock-jobber had a country house within a mile of that village, and one night set fire to it; but a timely discovery thereof preventing it from doing much damage, it was quickly quenched. However, Tim made his escape, and flying into Leicestershire he broke open a house at a place called Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and from thence took above eighty pounds. He then went to a fair at Derby, where he bought a good horse, and went on the highway again. Being thus mounted again to rob on the road, within two miles of Nottingham he attempted to stop a coach in which were three gentlemen, besides a couple of footmen riding a little behind; but they being resolved not to be robbed of what they had by one villain, one of them fired a blunderbuss out of the coach, which killed Tim's horse, and then, all the gentlemen alighting, and the footmen having by this time also come up to their assistance, a bloody and obstinate engagement began between them, wherein Tim killed one of the gentlemen and a footman; but being overpowered nevertheless, after he had discharged eight pistols, and also grown faint through the loss of much blood (for he had received eleven wounds in his arms, thighs and legs), he was seized and committed to jail in Nottingham, where he was executed, in 1701, aged twenty-nine years, and afterwards hanged in chains at the place where he perpetrated the two murders aforesaid.

TOM JONES

*Highwayman, executed at Launceston, 25th of April, 1702,
for robbing a Farmer's Wife*

TOM JONES was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the county of Northumberland, where his father, being a clothier, brought him up to the same trade. He followed this calling till he was two-and-twenty years of age, though not without discovering his vicious inclinations many years before, by running into debt and taking to all manner of irregular courses. At last, being reduced to extremity, he resolved at once to apply himself to the highway, as the only way left to retrieve his fortune. To make a beginning, he robbed his father of eighty pounds and a good horse, upon which he rode across the country with all speed, for fear of being pursued, galloping forty miles before he stopped; all which way he was afraid of everyone he saw and every noise he heard.

After this, riding into Staffordshire, and meeting a stage-coach with several passengers in it, he commanded the coachman to stop, and the people within to deliver. Some of the gentlemen were resolute, and refused to comply with his demand; upon which he fired several pistols, taking care to do no hurt, and still preserving three or four well-loaded for his defence, if he should have occasion of them. The fright which the gunpowder put a couple of ladies into, who were in the coach, obliged the gentlemen to surrender before there was any mischief done, and Tom rode off with a considerable booty.

It was after this that he met the late Lord Wharton and his lady on the road, stopped their coach and demanded their money, though they had three men on horseback to attend them. His lordship at first made some hesitation, and asked him if he understood what he was about. "Do you know me, sir," says he, "that you dare be so bold as to stop me on the road?" "Not I," replied Jones very readily; "I neither know nor care who you are, though, before you

NEWGATE CALENDAR

spoke, I took you for a brewer, because you carry your cooler by your side. Now, indeed, I am apt to imagine you are some great man, because you speak so big. But be as great as you will, sir, I must have you to know that there is no man upon this road so great as myself; therefore pray be quick in answering my demands, for delays may prove dangerous." His honour now saw our gentleman was resolute, so he and his lady even delivered up what they had about them without more words.

The whole prize consisted of two hundred pounds in money, three diamond rings and two gold watches. All this being secured, Jones commanded his lordship to bid his servants ride on some distance before, threatening him with death if he refused; which being done, and the servants obeying, he had a fair opportunity of riding off without being pursued.

Tom received intelligence one day that a certain gentleman was on the road with two hundred pounds in his coach. This, to be sure, was a sufficient invitation for him. He got upon a hill to wait for his customers coming, who spied him afar off without apprehending anything. But a steward of the gentleman, observing the behaviour of our chapman at a distance, told his master that he believed the man on the hill was a highwayman. "If you please, sir," quoth he, "to trust me with your money I'll ride by him, which I may do unsuspected, for he certainly waits for you." The gentleman was pleased at his servant's care, and liked his proposal very well. So giving him the bag, the steward rode on as fast as he could, and passed by Jones without being examined, getting out of sight before the coach came up.

In short, the coach was stopped and the money demanded, when our gentleman gave him about ten guineas, assuring him that he had no more. Jones boldly named the sum he wanted, and swore it was in the coach, the traveller as often asserting that he was mistaken. At last the real state of the case came into our adventurer's head; whereupon, without taking his leave of the gentleman, he set spurs to

DICK BAUF

his horse and rode after the steward full speed, who had by this time got at least a mile and a half from the place. Jones was well mounted, and it was five miles from the next town, so that he came in sight of the steward before he could get into any inn; but the steward saw him, mended his pace, and saved the money. This disappointment vexed poor Tom to the heart, but there was no remedy. As to the gentleman, he gave his servant a handsome gratuity for what he had done—as he deserved.

After many adventures, most of them of a piece with the foregoing, Tom was apprehended, in Cornwall, for robbing a farmer's wife, and afterwards ravishing her. For this fact he was tried, and condemned, the assizes following, and about ten days afterwards executed at Launceston, on Saturday, the 25th of April, 1702, being thirty-two years of age.

DICK BAUF

Who executed his own Parents, and from a Pickpocket became a Cat Burglar, and then a Highwayman.

Executed at Dublin, 15th of May, 1702

THIS insolent offender was born in the kingdom of Ireland. At twelve years of age he had the wide world to shift for himself in, his parents being then forced to swing for their lives on a piece of cross timber, where they had the misfortune to have their breath stopped. Their crime was only breaking open and rifling a house, and murdering most of the family. Dick was present at the action, and contributed towards it as much as he was able, but found mercy at the assizes on account of his youth. Some say he was pardoned only on the hard condition of being executioner to his own parents, and that he was at first very unwilling to take away the lives of those who gave him his, but consented at last, when he found that there was no excuse that such a worthy family might not be entirely cut off by one single act of justice. It is added that on the same consideration his father and mother persuaded

NEWGATE CALENDAR

him to the action, and gave him their blessing at the hour of their departure, assuring him that they had much rather die by his hands than by the hands of a stranger, since they were sure of his prayers in their last moments. These words afforded great consolation to young Richard, and enabled him to get through the work with a Christian fortitude.

Being now left an orphan, young, helpless and alone, he determined to look out for some gentleman whom he might serve in the quality of a skip-kennel, or some handicraftsman of whom he might learn a trade, for his support in an honest way. But all his inquiry was in vain; for the lamentable exit of his parents, and the occasion of it, being fresh in everyone's memory, their infamy rested on him, and there was no man to be found who would receive him into his house.

Being as yet unfit to engage in any great and hazardous enterprise, he took up the decent occupation of a pick-pocket, at which he soon became very dexterous, haunting all the fairs, markets, and even churches, round the country, and in this manner picking up a very good living; till, being often detected, and obliged to go through the discipline of the horse-pond, he was obliged to think of some other order of sharpers in which to get himself entered.

There is in Ireland a sort of men whom we may properly enough call satyrs, from their living in woods and desert places; among these Dick Baufr was next enrolled. These people never came to any towns, but continued in their private holds, stealing horses, kine, sheep and all sorts of cattle that came in their way, on which they subsisted. But all these inferior orders soon became tiresome to our adventurer, the more on account of the bad success he met with whilst he was in them. The next, then, therefore, was to get acquainted with a gang of Grumeis, who take their name from the similitude of their practice to that of the young boys who climb up to the tops of the masts at sea with great activity, and are called cats, or Grumeis, by the sailors. The thieves that bear this name are housebreakers who make

DICK BAUF

use of a ladder of ropes, with hooks in one end of it, by which they easily ascend to the chamber windows, having fastened their ladders with a long pole. These robbers were very common in Dick Bauf's time, and did a world of mischief both in town and country, doing all with so much expedition that they more frequently escaped than other housebreakers, yet commonly with as large booties of gold, silver, linen and everything that came to hand as anybody at all. When they had done their work their method was to pull a string which was fastened to the end of the hooks, and so raise them, upon which the ladder fell without leaving any marks behind it.

Next he got into a crew of wool-drawers, whose trade is to snatch away cloaks, hats or perukes from towners—a very sly sort of theft, practised only in the night, the greatest part of their cunning lying in the choice of a proper opportunity. They go always in companies, three or four together, about nine or ten at night, most commonly on dark rainy evenings, which are generally the most favourable to their practice. The places they choose are dark alleys and passages where a great many people come along, and there is a facility of escaping by a great many ways; which they do to prevent their being surprised by the neighbours if those that are robbed should cry out, as they frequently do. But Dick Bauf was at last taken in one of these pranks also, and burned in the hand for it at Galway; upon which he grew weary of the lay. He was, moreover, now a man full grown, very lusty and able-bodied; which determined him to take to the highway. He was not long in making provision for this new course; and, being in every particular well accoutred for it, he proceeded in as intrepid and insolent a manner as ever fellow did. All the four provinces of Ireland were scarce large enough for him to range in, and hardly afforded occasions enough for him to make proof of his courage as much as he desired. Night and day he pursued his villainies, and practised them on all ranks and degrees—rich and poor, old and young, man, woman and child were all the same to him. For he was as impartial as

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Death, and altogether as inexorable, being never softened to pity.

He was so notoriously remarkable for the daily robberies he committed on the Mount of Barnsmoor that no person of quality would venture to travel that way without a very large retinue. In a word, he kept his residence in this place till, by an order of the Government, there was a guard-house built on the middle of it; and the regiments lying at Coleraine, Londonderry, Belfast and other garrisons in the north of Ireland were obliged to detach thirty or forty men thither, under a sergeant and a corporal, and to relieve them monthly, on purpose to secure the passengers who travelled that way from being interrupted by this audacious robber.

These measures obliged him to shift his quarters and reside about Lorras. In the end, such grievous complaints of his frequent outrages were made to the Government by so many people that a proclamation was issued for the apprehending of him, with the promise of five hundred pounds' reward to him who could do the State this signal piece of service; for, in short, he began to be looked upon as a dangerous person to the whole kingdom. This great sum caused abundance of people to look out for him, and among others were several who had often had a fellow-feeling with him, by being employed to dispose of what he stole. Bauf was so enraged when he heard of this that he vowed revenge; which he thus executed.

Some of these persons daily travelled a by-road about business. As he knew their time of passing, he one day waylaid them and stopped them singly as they came, tying them neck and heels and putting them into an old barn by the roadside. When he had by this means got nine or ten together, he set the barn on fire and left them to be consumed with it; which they all were, without remedy.

This inhuman action was soon discovered by the persons being missed and the bones that were found in the rubbish; whereupon, finding the country too hot to hold him, he fled in disguise to Donaghadee, took shipping, and escaped to Portpatrick, in Scotland, from whence he designed to have

ALEXANDER BALFOUR

gone to France. But lighting on a public-house where there was a handsome landlady he got familiar with her, which occasioned him to stay longer than he intended, and, indeed, too long for him ; for the husband, at last observing the freedom that our rover took with his wife, caused him to be apprehended, in a fit of jealousy, having before a suspicion who he was.

When he was carried before a magistrate all circumstances appeared against him ; so that he was sent back under a strong guard to Ireland, where he was soon known. Being committed to Newgate, in Dublin, and shortly afterwards condemned, it is said he offered five thousand pounds for a pardon, being worth twice the sum. But all proving ineffectual, he was executed at Dublin, on Friday, the 15th of May, 1702, aged twenty-nine years. His body was afterwards hanged in chains on Barnsmoor Mount, in the province of Ulster.

ALEXANDER BALFOUR

*A Man of noble Family, who was convicted for the Murder
of Mr Syme, escaped from Prison, and lived Fifty
Years after the Day fixed for his Execution
by the " Maiden " or Guillotine*

THIS man was born in the year 1687, at the seat of his father, Lord Burleigh, near Kinross. He was first sent for education to a village called Orwell, near the place of his birth, and thence to the University of St Andrews, where he pursued his studies with a diligence and success that greatly distinguished him. His father, Lord Burleigh, had intended to have sent him into the army in Flanders, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, in which he had rational expectation of his rising to preferment, as he was related to the Duke of Argyll and the Earl of Stair, who were major-generals in the army ; but this scheme unhappily did not take place. Mr Balfour, going to his father's house during the vacation at the university, became enamoured of Miss Anne Robertson, who officiated as

NEWGATE CALENDAR

teacher to his sisters. This young lady was possessed of considerable talents, improved by a fine education; but Lord Burleigh being apprised of the connection between her and his son, she was discharged and the young gentleman sent to make the tour of France and Italy. Before he went abroad he sent the young lady a letter, informing her that if she married before his return he would murder her husband. Notwithstanding this threat, which she might presume had its origin in ungovernable passion, she married Mr Syme, a schoolmaster, at Inverkeithing, in the county of Fife. When Balfour returned from his travels, his first business was to inquire for Miss Robertson; and learning that she was married he proceeded immediately to Inverkeithing, when he saw Mrs Syme sitting at her window nursing the first child of her marriage. Recollecting his former threatenings, she now screamed with terror, and called to her husband to consult his safety. Mr Syme, unconscious of offence, paid no regard to what she said; but in the interim Balfour entered the schoolroom, and finding the husband shot him through the heart. The confusion consequent on this scene favoured his escape; but he was taken into custody, within a few days, at a public-house in a village four miles from Edinburgh, and, being brought to trial, was sentenced to die, but ordered to be beheaded by the "maiden,"¹ in respect to the nobility of his family. The scaffold was actually erected for the purpose; but on the preceding day his sister went to visit him, and, being very much like him in face and stature, they changed clothes, and he made his escape from the prison. His friends having provided horses for him, and a servant, at the west gate of Edinburgh, they rode to a distant village, where he changed his clothes again, and afterwards left the kingdom. Lord Burleigh, the father, died in the reign of Queen Anne; but had first obtained a pardon for his son, who succeeded to the family title and honours, and who lived near fifty years after his escape, having died, in 1752, a sincere penitent for the murder he had committed.

¹ See Appendix No. 2.

JACK WITHERS

*A sacrilegious Villain who murdered a Footman and was
executed on the 16th of April, 1703*

JACK WITHERS was the son of a butcher, born at Lichfield, in Staffordshire, where he served an apprenticeship with his own father. Want of business when he was out of his time made him come up to London, and his evil genius, when he was there, soon threw him into the way of destruction, for he engaged himself with a society of thieves, by a conversation he got into, from whence he was sent into Flanders for a soldier, as was then the custom of dealing with offenders who were not judged worthy of death.

While he was abroad he could very indifferently brook the being obliged to live on a foot soldier's pay, which bore no proportion to his late expenses. This put him on a great many shifts, and made him take all opportunities of making up the deficiency of his income.

Going into a church in Ghent, where the people were all at High Mass, and seeing most of them cast money into a box that stood under an image of the Virgin Mary, it made his fingers itch for the coin ; so, watching for a fair opportunity, with a crooked nail he picked the lock, and crammed as much of the treasure as he could into his pockets. But doing it over-hastily, and dropping some of the pieces, they made such a jingling on the marble pavement that, as ill luck would have it, he was discovered, seized, and dragged before a great cardinal then in that town.

This arch-priest, examining the witnesses as to the fact, and finding it plain, exclaimed prodigiously against Withers, by the titles of rogue, rascal and sacrilegious villain ; and was just going to condemn him to a severe punishment when Jack, falling on his knees, with uplifted hands and tears in his eyes, begged his Eminence to hear him. This, after much storming, was granted, and silence being made, Jack, in a piteous tone, told him that he was a vile, wicked wretch, bred up a Protestant and a heretic, and being in

NEWGATE CALENDAR

great distress he had made his prayers before the image of the Blessed Virgin to relieve him in his hard necessity, promising, in consideration thereof, to turn Roman Catholic, and ever be her votary; when all of a sudden the box under her image flew open, and she pointed with her finger to the money, making also a dumb show, with nodding her head, for him to supply his necessities out of it, which he had thankfully done, with a resolution of keeping his vow for ever.

This relation being heard with much patience and attention, the Cardinal cried out, "A miracle! A miracle!"—which all the rest rehearsed out aloud, concluding that none had more right to dispose of that money than the Virgin, to whom it was offered. Instead of being punished, Jack Withers was now carried back to the church in solemn procession on men's shoulders, and borne round it in triumph, whilst *Ave Maria* was sung by the priests, and he placed before the High Altar; after which he was dismissed with great applause.

Proving so fortunate in this cheat, he was thereby emboldened to commit another like it; for one day, going into a church in Antwerp, he perceived the priest put a silver crucifix of great value into a sepulchre, as their ceremony is in representing the Resurrection upon Easter Day; and whilst the spiritual juggled and the people were going round the church, Jack Withers was so dexterous as to convey the crucifix into his breeches and shuffle among the crowd; so that when the priest came back to it, saying these words in the Gospel, "*Non est hic, surrexit enim*"—that is, "He is not here, for He is risen"—he found it so indeed. For, after much fumbling, he perceived his graven god was gone; and Withers then made what haste he could away, for fear of a search.

But a little after the playing of this prank, Jack, running away from his colours, came into England again, where, preferring an idle course of life before any lawful employment, he took to the highway. One day meeting with an old miser upon the road, who was his father's neighbour, he commanded him to stand and deliver what he had, or other-

JACK WITHERS

wise he was a dead man. The old man, being surprised, pleaded great poverty, in hopes of saving about a hundred guineas and broad-pieces of gold, which he had in the pockets of his wide knee-breeches, containing cloth enough to make a gentlewoman a hooped petticoat; but all his whining prevailed nothing with Jack. He was then for coming to composition with him, by giving him one half of his money to save the other, but Withers swore a great oath of the first rate that he would not abate him a farthing of cent. per cent. The old man, fumbling a good while in his pocket, at length lugged out his purse and pair of spectacles, putting which on his nose, he gave his money to Jack Withers.

After this, Jack Withers, and one William Edwards, setting on a person of quality within a mile or two of Beaconsfield, in Buckinghamshire, the lord that was assaulted, who had only one footman with him, had the courage to oppose them, and held so hot a dispute to save what he had that Withers's horse was shot, and Edwards was obliged to carry him off behind him; and, a close pursuit being made after them, they were forced to quit that horse and make their escape on foot through by-lanes and over fields, where none on horseback could ride after them. Hiding themselves in a wood all night, the next morning they made the best of their way to London; but about a mile out of Uxbridge, meeting with a penny-post man, they assaulted him on the queen's highway, and having taken from him about eight shillings, Withers, to prevent his discovery of them (though much against the will of his comrade Edwards), took a butcher's knife out of his pocket, and with it not only cut the throat of the unhappy man, but ripped out his bowels, and filling the body full of stones threw it into a pond, where it was found the next day. None could tell the author of this inhuman murder till Withers and his companion were apprehended, about two months after, for a country robbery, when, being condemned at the Lent Assizes at Norfolk, on the 16th of April, 1703, the day of their execution, at Thetford, Withers confessed the fact.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI

*Executed at Tyburn, on 21st of July, 1703, for the Murder
of his Wife, who said she was allied to the French
Royal Family*

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI was the son of Protestant parents, and was born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc, in France. He received a religious education; but when he arrived at years of maturity he left his own country and went into Germany, where he served as a horse grenadier under the Elector of Brandenburg, who was afterwards King of Prussia. When he had been in this condition about a year he came over to England and entered into the service of Lord Haversham, and afterwards enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel de la Melonière. Having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was dismissed from further service; in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his discharge.

He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age, who pretended that she had a great fortune, and was allied to the Royal Family of France; and he soon married her, not only on account of her supposed wealth and rank, but also of her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life. As soon as he discovered that his wife had no fortune he went to London and offered his services to Lord Haversham, and was again admitted as one of his domestics. His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at Lord Haversham's, which he would not consent to, saying that his lordship did not know he was married.

The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition, and frequent quarrels took place between them because he was unable to be with her so frequently as she desired.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI

At length, on the 9th of June, 1703, Dramatti was sent to London from his master's house at Kensington, and calling upon his wife at her lodgings near Soho Square, she endeavoured to prevail upon him to stay with her. This, however, he refused; and finding that he was going home she went before him, and stationed herself at the Park gate. On his coming up, she declared that he should go no farther unless she accompanied him; but he quitted her abruptly and went onwards to Chelsea. She pursued him to the Bloody Bridge, and there seized him by the neckcloth, and would have strangled him, but that he beat her off with his cane. He then attacked her with his sword; and having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and, falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty. He went on to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his clothes were bloody, he said he had been attacked by two men in Hyde Park, who would have robbed him of his clothes, but that he had defended himself, and broke the head of one of them.

The real fact, however, was subsequently discovered; and Dramatti being taken before a magistrate, to whom he confessed his crime, the body of his wife was found in a ditch between Hyde Park and Chelsea, and a track of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a sword was found sticking in a bank which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession. The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and on the 21st of July, 1703, was executed at Tyburn.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

THOMAS COOK

*Murdered a Constable during a Riot in Mayfair, and was
executed on 11th of August, 1703*

THOMAS COOK was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester. When he was about fifteen years of age his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon in London, with whom he lived two years, and then, running away, engaged himself in the service of — Needham, Esq., who was page-of-honour to King William III.; but his mother writing to him, and intimating in the vulgar phrase that “a gentleman’s service was no inheritance,” he quitted his place, and going to Gloucester engaged in the business of a butcher, being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed this trade for some time, and served as master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business and took an inn; but it does not appear that he was successful in it, since he soon afterwards turned grazier. Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced as prizefighter, at Mayfair. At this time Mayfair was a place greatly frequented by prizefighters, thieves and women of bad character. Here puppet-shows were exhibited, and it was the favourite resort of all the profligate and abandoned. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree that Queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which the Justices of Peace issued their warrant to the High Constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance.

When the constables came to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which some of the latter were wounded. Cooper, the constable, being the most active, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at

MOLL RABY

the expiration of four days. Thereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was deposed upon his trial) while he was in a public-house there he swore in a profane manner, for which the landlord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him into custody for it; to which he answered: "Are there any of the informing dogs in Ireland? We in London drive them; for at a fair called Mayfair there was a noise which I went out to see—six soldiers and myself—the constables played their parts with their staves, and I played mine; and when the man dropped I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away." Cook, having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, was at length taken into custody and sent to Chester, whence he was removed by writ of habeas corpus to London; and being tried at the Old Bailey was convicted, and received sentence of death. Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July, 1703, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn, but when he got to High Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. On his return to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who rejoiced on his narrow escape, except those who would assist him in his devotions. On Friday he received another respite till the 11th of August, when he was executed.

MOLL RABY

*Who robbed many Houses, and was hanged at Tyburn
on 3rd of November, 1703*

THIS offender had almost as many names as the fabulous hydra had heads. She was born in the parish of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, and took betimes to ill courses, in which she continued till her death. Madam Ogle was not more dexterous at bilking hackney coaches than Moll Raby at bilking her lodging, in which species of fraud her talent originally lay, and at which she had more success than at anything else she undertook.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

One of her adventures was at a house in Great Russell Street, by Bloomsbury Square, where, passing for a great heiress, who was obliged to leave the country by reason of the importunate troublesomeness of a great many suitors, she was entertained with all the civility imaginable. This seemingly honest creature, who was a saint without but a devil within, continued there about a fortnight to increase her character, making a very good appearance as to her habit, for she had a tallyman in every quarter of the town. One day, when all the family were absent except the maid, she desired her to call a porter, and gave him a sham bill, drawn on a banker in Lombard Street, for one hundred and fifty pounds, which she desired might be all in gold ; but fearing such a quantity of money might be a temptation to make the porter dishonest, she privately requested the maid to go along with him, and she, in the meantime, would take care of the house. The poor maid, thinking no harm, went with the porter to Lombard Street, where they were stopped for a couple of cheats ; but they alleging their innocence, and proving from whence they came, a messenger was sent home with them, who found it to be a trick put upon the servant to rob the house ; for before she came back, Moll Raby had gone off with above eighty pounds in money, one hundred and sixty pounds worth of plate, and several other things of a considerable value.

For offences of this nature she was thrice burned in the hand, after which she married one Humphry Jackson, a butcher, who was taught by her to leave off his trade and go upon the pad in the daytime, while she went upon the " buttock and twang " by night ; which is picking up a cull or spark, whom, pretending she would not expose her face in a public-house, she takes into some dark alley, where she picks his fob or pocket of his watch or money, and giving a sort of " Ahem ! " as a signal she has succeeded in her design, the fellow with whom she keeps company, blundering up in the dark, knocks down the gallant and carries off the prize.

But after the death of this husband Moll turned arrant thief, and in the first exploit she then went upon she was

MOLL HAWKINS

like to come scurvily off. The adventure was this. Going upon the night sneak (as the phrase of these people is), she found a door half open in Downing Street, at Westminster, where, stealing softly upstairs into a great bedchamber, she hid herself under the bed. She had not been there above an hour before a couple of footmen brought candles into the room, whilst the maid, with great diligence, was laying the cloth for supper. The table being furnished with two or three dishes of meat, five or six persons sat down, besides the children that were in the house; which so affrighted Moll that she verily thought that if their voices and the noise of the children had not hindered them they might have heard her very joints smite one against another and the teeth chatter in her head. At length supper was ended, and not long after they all withdrew themselves; when Moll, coming from under the bed, wrapped the sheets up in a quilt, and sneaking downstairs made off the ground as fast as she could.

Mary or Moll Raby, *alias* Rogers, *alias* Jackson, *alias* Brown, was at last condemned for a burglary committed in the house of Lady Cavendish, in Soho Square, the 3rd of March, 1703, upon the information of two villains—namely, Arthur Chambers and Joseph Hatfield—who made themselves evidences against her. At the place of execution at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 3rd of November, 1703, she said she was thirty years of age, that she was well brought up at first, and knew good things, but did not practise them, having given herself up to all manner of wickedness and vice.

MOLL HAWKINS

*A "Question Lay" Thief, whose End was at Tyburn,
on 22nd of December, 1703*

MOLL HAWKINS was condemned on the 3rd of March, 1703, for privately stealing goods out of the shop of Mrs Hobday, in Paternoster Row. She having been reprieved for nine months, upon account of her

NEWGATE CALENDAR

being then alleged quick with child—though she was not—she was now called down to her former judgment. When she came to the place of execution at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 22nd of December, 1703, she said she was about twenty-six years of age, born in the parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields; that she served three years' apprenticeship to a button-maker in Maiden Lane, by Covent Garden, and followed that employment for some years after, but withal gave way at the same time to those ill practices which were now the cause of her death.

Before this Moll Hawkins projected shoplifting she went upon the "question lay," which is putting herself into a good handsome dress, like some exchange girl, and then, taking an empty bandbox in her hand, and passing for a milliner's or sempstress's apprentice, she goes early to a person of quality's house and, knocking at the door, asks the servant if the lady is stirring yet, for if she is, she has brought home, according to order, the suit of knots (or what else the devil puts into her head) which her ladyship had bespoke overnight. While the servant goes upstairs to acquaint the lady with this message, the custom is in the meantime to rob the house, and go away without an answer. Thus she one day served the Lady Arabella Howard, living in Soho Square. When the maid went upstairs to acquaint her ladyship that a gentlewoman waited below with some gloves and fans, Moll Hawkins took the opportunity of carrying away above fifty pounds' worth of plate, which stood on a sideboard in the parlour, to be cleaned against dinner-time.

HARVEY HUTCHINS

Apprenticed as a Thief and became an expert Housebreaker.

Executed at Tyburn in 1704

THIS malefactor, Harvey Hutchins, was born of honest parents, his father being a sword-blade maker by trade, who, when this unhappy son came to be about fourteen years of age, put him apprentice to a silversmith

HARVEY HUTCHINS

in Shrewsbury, but pilfering very often from his master, he had him sent at last to Shrewsbury Jail.

In this prison the young lad became acquainted with some London thieves, who, following their calling in the county of Salop, were also committed to the same jail, and Hutchins, hearing them tell of the several notable and ingenious robberies that were committed in and about London by some of the chief masters of their profession, was resolved to make the best of his way thither after he obtained his liberty.

About three or four months after his confinement came the assizes, when, being tried, and whipped at the cart's tail, upon his friends paying his fees he got his enlargement and came up to Islington, where he lurked about the town, and took up his lodging in a barn. But his mind still ran upon the ingenuity of the topping thieves in London, particularly one Constantine, whom, for the fine stories he had heard told of him, he admired above the rest. At last he moved into the great metropolis, where, getting acquainted with some young pickpockets, he inquired among them for Constantine, who told him he might be found at one Snottynose Hill's, who kept the Dog Tavern in Newgate Street.

The young Salopian, being overjoyed at finding out where Mr Constantine used, one evening goes to the Dog Tavern to inquire, saying, after his country dialect or tone, he had "vary ennest business wod him." The drawer presently went upstairs to Mr Constantine, who was then drinking with a great many of his thieving fraternity. Constantine ordered him to be brought up to the stair-head, where, coming out to him, quoth he: "What is your business with me?" He answered: "Vy, mester, I heve ben in Shrewsbury Joil, vere haring a grot mornny vine stories of yoa, by zum gentlemen that vare prosnert with me, I am come up to London on porpus to beand myzelf prontice to yow." Hereupon Constantine could not forbear smiling at the lad's fancy, and taking him into the room, where he repeated the story to his company, it caused a great deal of laughter among them.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

He gave the boy sixpence and a glass or two of wine, and bade him be sure to come to him at the same place about seven the next night, and he would take him upon trial, and according as he found him tractable, diligent and acute in his business he would take him apprentice. The boy, overjoyed at this good fortune (as he unhappily thought it), took his leave, and, according to order, was next night at the Dog Tavern punctually at the hour appointed, where his master, Constantine, was ready to go with him upon a trial of skill; which was this. Constantine having stolen a silver tankard, about three months before, out of an ale-house in Cheapside, had, nevertheless, been there in disguise several times after; and observing much plate still in use about the house told the boy the story going along the street, and promised him that if he could carry off another clean, and bring it to him at a certain house in Whitechapel, he would certainly take him apprentice, and make a man of him when he was out of his apprenticeship, at the same time intimating to him that the house was just before him, where he was going to drink.

The boy took his story right, but just as his master was come to the house, pulling him by the sleeve, quoth he: "Mester, Mester, can yow ran well?" "Yes," replied his master, "as well as most men in England; I have often outran hundreds together before now." "Weel then," said the boy, "if you can ran well, ne'er fear but we'll hove a tonkad."

Into the house Constantine goes first, calling for a room. The boy followed him to the bar, as his servant, and with a loud voice asked the man of the house if he did not lose a silver tankard about three months ago. "Yes," replied he. Constantine, overhearing this, took as fast as he could to his heels, the boy at the same time crying out: "That was the man that stole it." Upon which the victualler and the servants ran presently out in pursuit of him, but to no purpose, for he was out of sight in an instant, and in the meantime the boy took another silver tankard out of the bar, and got safely to the place appointed by his master; who no sooner saw him but he fell a-cursing and damning,

TOM SHARP

and sinking at him like a madman, for putting him into such bodily fear, withal telling him that if he had been taken he should have been certainly hanged by the best neck he had. "But," quoth he, "sirrah, have you got a tankard?" "Yes," replied the boy, and taking it from under his coat gave it him, saying at the same time: "Mester, if yow hed not virst assored me thet yow cud ran well, I wud a gut et sum udder vay."

Harvey very truly and honestly served out his time with his master. Then, setting up for himself, he had very pretty business in housebreaking, and lived very creditably and handsomely among those of his profession for about nine years, in and about the cities of London and Westminster, and in that time had often paid scot-and-lot to Newgate and other jails about town; but at last, being apprehended for breaking open a Jew's house at Duke's Place, and robbing it of above four hundred pounds in money and plate, he was hanged at Tyburn, in 1704, aged twenty-six years.

TOM SHARP

*Resourceful Thief, Coiner and Trickster. Executed
in Long Acre on 22nd September, 1704*

THOMAS SHARP was born at Reigate, in Surrey, where he served his time to a glover. But he had not been long out of his apprenticeship ere, by the influence of bad company, he was so hardened in villainy as not to be reclaimed either by wholesome advice, threats, or the examples of his companions, who were executed before him. Nothing could put an end to his roguery but the halter that put an end to his life.

To prove that this fellow was not only Sharp by name but also sharp by nature, we need only relate the following adventure. Dressing himself one day in an old suit of black clothes and an old tattered canonical gown, he went to an eminent tavern in the city, where at that time was kept a great feast of the clergymen, and humbly begged one of the drawers

NEWGATE CALENDAR

to acquaint some of the ministers above-stairs that a poor scholar was waiting below who craved their charity. Accordingly the drawer acquainted one of the divines that there was a poor scholar below in a parson's habit. The gentleman going down, and commiserating his seeming poverty, introduced him into the company of all the clergymen, who made him eat and drink very plentifully, and gathered him betwixt four and five pounds, which he thankfully put into his pocket. One of the divines then, after asking pardon for making so free, desired to know of him at what university he was bred. Tom Sharp told them he was never bred at any. "Can you speak Greek?" the divine asked again. "No," replied Tom. "Nor Latin?" the divine asked. "No, sir," said Tom. "Can you write then?" quoth the divine. "No, nor read neither," replied Tom. At which they fell a-laughing, and said he was a poor scholar indeed. "Then I have not deceived you, gentlemen," quoth Tom, and so he brushed off with their charitable benevolence, thinking himself not fit company for such learned sophists.

This poor scholar afterwards used the Vine ale-house at Charing Cross, which was then kept by a rich old man, who knew not that he was a thief, and brought several of his gang there once a week, to keep a sort of a club, up one pair of stairs, with a design to rob the victualler. Accordingly they had several times struck all the doors above-stairs with a dub—that is, a pick-lock—but could never light on his mammon; whereupon one night Tom Sharp puts the candle to the old rotten hangings that were in the club-room and setting them in a blaze he and his company cries out "Fire!" The alarm brings up the old man in a trice, who in a great fright runs up to secure his money. Tom runs softly after him at a distance to espy where his hoard is, and in the meantime his associates, with two or three pails of water, have quenched the flame, which has done no great damage. The old man, at the news, returned down with a great deal of joy, leaving his money where it was before. With this information, the night following, Tom and two

TOM SHARP

of his companions, having a great supper there, each with his lass, took the opportunity of taking away five hundred pounds in money ; which, when the old cove missed, he was ready to hang himself in his own garters.

Sharp's chiefest dexterity lay in robbing wagons, which in their canting language they call tumblers. They who follow this sort of thieving do generally wait on a dark morning in the roads betwixt London and Bow, Blackheath, Newington, Islington, Highgate, Kensington Gravel Pits or Knightsbridge, and going in at the tail of a wagon they take out packs of linen or woollen cloth, boxes, trunks or other goods. One time, though, Tom Sharp and his accomplices, after following a wagon along Tyburn Road to St Giles's Pound, had no convenience at all of entering it, by reason a man drove the team before and the master and his son, a lad of about thirteen years of age, rode behind, on one horse. Still they followed the wagon till it came just under Newgate, when Tom Sharp, who was a lusty, hale fellow, snatching the boy off the horse, ran down the Old Bailey with him under his arm, at which the father cried out to his man to stop the wagon, for a rogue had stolen away his son. So whilst the master rode after Tom Sharp, and the man ran after his master, one of Tom's comrades slipped two pieces of woollen cloth out of the wagon. The old man got his son again, for Tom dropped him at the sessions-house gate.

Under this sort of thieving is also comprehended the robbing of coaches in the night-time in London, by cutting off trunks and boxes which are tied sometimes behind them ; and also the chiving of bags or portmanteaux from behind horses—that is, cutting them off, for chive, among thieves, signifies a knife. For offences of this nature Tom Sharp was in Newgate no less than eighteen times before the last fatal time.

Among many other arts peculiar to persons of his profession Tom learned that of making "black dogs," which are shillings or other pieces of money made only of pewter, double-washed, by means of which he maintained himself for

NEWGATE CALENDAR

some time. It may not be amiss to observe here that what the professors of this hellish art call "George Plateroon" is all copper within, with only a thin plate about it; and what they call "Compositum" is a mixed metal, which will both touch and cut, but not endure the fiery test. Tom had not been a great while at the trade of coining before several of his gang were apprehended and sent post to the gallows for their wicked ingenuity, which obliged him to employ all the powers of his wit and invention in the search of something else that might conduce to supply him in his manifold extravagances.

In the next place he went to picking of pockets, being detected at which, he was committed to New Prison, where, having a great many loose women coming after him, who supplied him with a great deal of money, he had all the privileges imaginable in the jail; and going to take his trial at Hicks's Hall for his fact, one John Lee, a turnkey, conducting him thither, gave him the liberty of being shaved by the way in a barber's shop. The keeper also having a pretty long beard, quoth Tom Sharp: "Come, we are time enough yet; sit down, and I'll pay for taking your beard off too." Whilst he was being trimmed, Tom talked of one thing and another to hold him in discourse, till at last the barber cried: "Shut your eyes or else my ball will offend them." The man did as he was bid, and Tom took this occasion to slip out, the barber not taking him for a prisoner, and hid himself in an ale-house hard by. The turnkey, not hearing him talk, opened his eyes, and not seeing him in the shop rose up so hastily that he overthrew Cut-beard, basin, water, and all upon him, and ran out into the street with the barber's cloth about him, and the napkin on his head. The people seeing him thus, with the froth about his face, concluded him mad, and as he ran gave him the way. The barber, with his razor in his hand, ran after the turnkey, crying, "Stop thief! Stop thief!" but he, never minding the outcry, still ran, staring up and down, as if his wits had lately stolen away from him and he was in pursuit of them. Some durst not stop him, and others would not; till the barber seized him

JOHN SMITH

at last, and getting his cloth and napkin from him, made him pay sixpence besides, for being but half shaved, while Tom, in the time of this hurly-burly, got clear off.

Tom's last fact was shooting a watchman who opposed him in breaking open a shoemaker's shop at the corner of Great Wild Street, facing up Great Queen Street. He was apprehended and condemned for this murder ; but such was his impiety, whilst under sentence of death, that instead of thanking such as had so much Christianity in them as to bid him prepare for his latter end, he would bid them not to trouble his head with the idle whimsies of heaven and hell, for he was more a man than to dread or believe any such matter after this life. But when he came to the place of execution, which was at the end of Long Acre, in Drury Lane, and the halter was put about his neck, he then changed his tone, and began to call out for mercy with a sorrowful voice, which could not but awake the most lethargic conscience that ever the devil lulled asleep. In this manner he was turned off the cart on Friday, the 22nd day of September, 1704, aged twenty-nine years.

JOHN SMITH

*Who proved that a Peruke-Maker does not make a good
Highwayman, for his Career lasted only a Week.
Executed 20th of December, 1704*

JOHN SMITH was born at Winchcomb, within ten miles of Gloucester. He was a peruke-maker by trade, about twenty-three years of age, and carefully educated by his parents, to whose kindness he made but an ungrateful return, being very disobedient to them, and falling into many extravagances and debaucheries. He said that the ill habits he had contracted in his younger years were greatly confirmed by his being, though but a little while, at sea, and that when he returned from thence he became acquainted with a peruke-maker in Chancery Lane, who proposed to him to go and rob on the highway ; which

NEWGATE CALENDAR

being soon agreed on, they went out with that intent on Sunday, the 29th of October, and as they were waiting about Paddington for a booty, Smith rested himself on a stile over against the gallows at Tyburn, at the sight of which his heart misgave him, and he could not help thinking that at one time or another he should end his days near the place where he was beginning to rob; which he mentioned to his companion, and would have persuaded him to go home. This the other refused to do, and encouraged him, saying: "What matters, it, Jack? It is but hanging, if thou shouldst come to that." So they proceeded on their design, and stole Mr William Birch's grey mare, which was the first robbery they committed.

On the following day Smith set out alone upon the mare and robbed three stage-coaches near Epping Forest. On Wednesday, the 1st of November, he robbed three other stage-coaches and a hackney-coach on Hounslow Heath, and on the Saturday following he robbed three stage-coaches more near St Albans; in all which robberies he did not obtain more than twenty pounds. And lastly, he robbed Mr Thomas Woodcock's coach, on Finchley Common, on Monday, the 6th of November, taking from Mr Woodcock's lady four guineas, two keys and a silk purse; for which he was apprehended.

At the Old Bailey a gentleman deposed that, as he and his servant were riding along, hearing that a robbery had been committed, they pursued the thief till he took refuge in a wood called Colefall; and that he directed his servant to ride into the wood while he rode round it, to observe if the prisoner attempted to make his escape out of it. That in their search they found a grey mare tied to a bush, soon after which seven or eight people came to their assistance, and at length a huntsman espied the prisoner lying under a tree, and advanced towards him with a blunderbuss, whereupon Smith desired him not to shoot him, and immediately shot off his pistols into the air. Two men laying hold of him, he was conducted to Muswell Hill, where, being examined, there was found upon him the

JOHN SMITH

watch and purses mentioned in the indictment, a mask, some powder and shot, and some money; and that the prisoner then said he would have made his escape but that the mare was a jade.

The jury found him guilty, and he received sentence of death. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of December, 1704.

JOHN SMITH

Convicted of Robbery, reprieved while actually hanging upon the Scaffold, 24th of December, 1705, and afterwards had two other Escapes from Death

THOUGH the crimes committed by this man were not marked with particular atrocity, nor his life sufficiently remarkable for a place in these volumes, yet the circumstances attending his fate at the place of execution are perhaps more singular than any we may have to record.

He was the son of a farmer at Malton, about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchantman, after which he entered on board a man-of-war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long disengaged from the naval service when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by Lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connections, and engaged with some of his dissolute companions as a housebreaker.

On the 5th of December, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve, through the interest of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th day of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and

NEWGATE CALENDAR

was turned off in the usual manner ; but when he had hung nearly fifteen minutes the people present cried out : “ A reprieve ! ” On this the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding and other proper applications.

When he had perfectly recovered his senses he was asked what were his feelings at the time of execution ; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows. When he was turned off, he for some time was sensible of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing upwards. That having forced their way to his head, he as it were saw a great blaze, or glaring light, which seemed to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut down, and began to come to himself, the blood and spirits, forcing themselves into their former channels, put him, by a sort of pricking or shooting, to such intolerable pain that he could have wished those hanged who had cut him down. From this circumstance he was called “ Half-hanged Smith.”

After this narrow escape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February ; yet such was his propensity to evil deeds that he returned to his former practices, and, being again apprehended, was tried at the Old Bailey for housebreaking ; but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

After this second extraordinary escape he was a third time indicted ; but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct showed he had not deserved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour ; but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensations of Providence evidenced in his own person.

It was not unfrequently the case that, in Dublin, men

JOHN SMITH

were formerly seen walking about who, it was known, had been sentenced to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, and upon whom, strange as it may appear to unenlightened eyes, the sentence had been carried out. The custom was that the body should hang only half-an-hour; and, in a mistaken lenity, the sheriff, in whose hands was entrusted the execution of the law, would look away after the prisoner had been turned off, while the friends of the culprit would hold up their companion by the waistband of his breeches, so that the rope should not press upon his throat. They would, at the expiration of the usual time, thrust their "deceased" friend into a cart, in which they would gallop him over all the stones and rough ground they came near, which was supposed to be a never-failing recipe in order to revive him, professedly—and indeed in reality—with the intention of "waking" him.

An anecdote is related of a fellow named Mahony, who had been convicted of the murder of a Connaught man in one of the numerous Munster and Connaught wars, and whose execution had been managed in the manner above described, who, being put into the cart in a coffin by his Munster friends, on his way home was so revived, and so overjoyed at finding himself still alive, that he sat upright and gave three hearty cheers, by way of assuring his friends of his safety. A "jontleman" who was shocked at this indecent conduct in his defunct companion, and who was, besides, afraid of their scheme being discovered and thwarted, immediately, with the sapling which he carried, hit him a thump on the head, which effectually silenced his self-congratulations. On their arrival at home they found that the "friendly" warning which had been given to the poor wretch had been more effectual than the hangman's rope; and the wailings and lamentations which had been employed at the place of execution to drown the encouraging cries of the aiders of the criminal's escape were called forth in reality at his wake on the same night. It was afterwards a matter of doubt whether the fellow who dealt the unfortunate blow ought not to have been charged with the murder of

NEWGATE CALENDAR

his half-hanged companion ; but, a justice being consulted, it was thought no one could be successfully charged with the murder of a man who was already dead in law.

ARTHUR CHAMBERS

A Master of Thieves' Slang, who was full of Artful Tricks, which, however, did not save him from the Gallows at Tyburn, where he found himself in 1706

ARTHUR CHAMBERS was of base extraction, and consequently void of education, good manners or any other qualification that was amiable. The first step, in his opinion, to complete him a thorough master in the thieving art was to have at his finger-ends all the canting language (which comprehends a parcel of invented words, such as thieves very well know, and by which they can distinguish one another from the other classes of mankind), in order to the attainment whereof he put himself under the direction of an experienced teacher that way ; and, what was soon observable, attended so closely to the dictates of his preceptor that he not only outrivalled him but became superior to any of his contemporary thieves.

Chambers quickly demonstrated how pleasing his new language was to him, for he could not enter an ale-house but he would be punning with the landlord : indeed his gay apparel (for Arthur could not endure the thought of being called a sloven) very often induced the masters of the houses he frequented to sit down by him and listen to his jocular way of talking. Sometimes, from the ignorance of some of them, he would impudently assert that what he now and then mixed with his ordinary English was the purest Greek in the world, and, to convince them he was sincere in what he advanced, would frequently pull out of his pocket a Greek testament and say : " Sir, this book was made by one of the oldest philosophers ; believe me, I have studied it this dozen years, and every moment I looked into it I gained a twelvemonth's knowledge." The

ARTHUR CHAMBERS

landlord would be gazing all the while open-mouthed at Chambers, and, to be sure, he on his part was very intent upon something besides his Greek Testament, for, soon after, a general complaint was made of abundance of money being lost; but which way was the question. In Launceston, in Cornwall, whither he went, the inhabitants received him with open arms for a considerable time, and his merry disposition soon procured him the acquaintance of men of note in that country. He had taken care, too, before leaving London, to supply himself with a great number of false crown and half-crown pieces, which, on his arrival, he uttered at all the places he frequented; but abundance of persons having been deceived with these pieces, and a general complaint made round about, search was made everywhere for the apprehending of the cheat, and poor Chambers was taken up; the consequence of which was the sending of him to jail, where he remained a year and a half before he could get his enlargement.

Cornwall now became too hot for him to stay any longer there; so he made the best way he was able to London, where, on the very first day of his arrival, he performed the most cunning, artful and yet barefaced piece of felony that was ever heard of.

Having alighted from the wagon, he went directly to an ale-house in West Smithfield, where, seating himself in a box, and calling for a pint of beer and a slice of bread and cheese, he comfortably refreshed himself; then, falling into discourse with some tradesmen in the next box to him, about the country and quiet enjoyment of a rural life, the talk was insensibly turned upon diving or picking of pockets. "Look ye, gentlemen," said Chambers, "I can pick a pocket as well as any man in Great Britain, and yet, though I say it, am as honest as the best Englishman breathing. For an instance of what I say, observe the country gentleman just now passing by the window. I'll step out and take his watch though it is now scarce five o'clock." A wager of ten shillings was immediately laid that he did not perform it. Chambers answered the bet, and presently, pushing out

NEWGATE CALENDAR

of the door, made a quick round till he came to the end of Long Lane, where he met with the gentleman, and courteously pulling off his hat to him asked if he could inform him which was the nearest way to Knave's Acre; to which the gentleman replied: "Lackaday, friend, you ask a very ignorant person, for I am a stranger here, and want to know the nearest way to Moorfields." "Oh, sir, I live there, and can acquaint you which way to take: excuse me, sir, I would willingly bear you company thither, but extraordinary affairs calling me to find out a place called Knave's Acre I must necessarily be jogging on; but be pleased to take my directions." So saying, he pointed with his hand. "Look you, sir, you have no other way to go than directly along this lane, which will bring you into a street called Barbican, that into a dirty lane over against it, and that into Chiswell Street, the end whereof will lead you into Moorfields." All this while the country gentleman was staring the way Chambers pointed, who in the interim made sure of his watch, and after the gentleman and he had left one another returned back to the company, laid down the spoil on the table, and claimed the wager, which was accordingly paid.

One day, being very well dressed, he goes to the Exchange and mixes with some Italian merchants, and after some little conversation, which ran on trade and shipping, calls one of them aside, who was a very comely and grave person. With him he seems to be in a close and eager dialogue, the merchant all the while nodding and biting his thumb. Meantime one of Chambers's confederates comes up and begins to discourse with the merchant much after the same manner as he had done. Upon which Chambers says: "Sir, I perceive you have no liking to my proposition, but possibly you may not meet with such another bargain as mine—I mean as to profit." "No liking!" answered the merchant. "Yes, yes, sir; I had as lief chap with you as the best man alive, so I find but my advantage in it." Upon this the merchant spoke a few words to Chambers's confederate, and then, calling Arthur to him, said: "Here is

ARTHUR CHAMBERS

another gentleman who has a bargain much like yours to dispose of ; if you can join together, we'll throw the commodities together and make but one lot of them." " Agreed," replied Chambers, who without any further ceremony, as the merchant stood close to his confederate, dived nimbly into his pockets and drew thereout a purse of gold and his gold watch, and imperceivably conveyed them to his confederate. But this spoil not satisfying the avaricious temper of our adventurer, and seeing a very good handkerchief hanging out of the merchant's coat-pocket, he snaps at it, but unluckily for his first prize. The merchant, it seems, caught him in the act ; and seizing him by the collar, called out, " Thief ! thief ! "—which words raised abundance of persons then on the walks about them, and everyone was desirous to know the bottom of the matter. The merchant was for having our adventurer before a magistrate ; and he, on his part, strenuously denied the fact (for by this time the purse and watch were found gone), and even threatened the injured tradesman to punish him for defaming his character among the only persons in the world he got his living by. During this contention the confederate, who had received the purse and watch from Chambers, had marched to the porter at the gate, to get proclamation to be made on the Exchange that if any person had lost a purse with gold in it, and a gold watch, on giving the true marks he might have it again. These words reaching the merchant's ears, he, glad of the opportunity of regaining his lost things, let go Chambers, with a thousand excuses for his rudeness and rash accusations, and went directly to the crier ; but both Chambers and his confederate procured means of slipping away in the meantime.

This disappointment but the more sharpened the wit and cunning of our adventurer, who was resolved to use his talents (as he called them) to a much better purpose than his last endeavour had produced. To this end he takes a first floor of a house in Soho Square, and contracts with the landlord to pay fourteen shillings a week for the same. For a while good harmony and understanding ruled between

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Chambers and the gentleman of the house, who took him for a man of fortune, as his dress and expenses might have very well argued him. One evening as they were at supper—I mean the family of the house—our adventurer came in, seemingly in a vast uneasiness, which made the good folks importune him to let them know what it was that disturbed him. “I have so much friendship for you, Mr Woodville,” said the landlord (for you must know this was the name he had given himself), “that if I can be of any real service to you, it is but opening your mind to me, and you may depend to find me both your counsellor and benefactor.” Chambers, pleased with the landlord’s frank kindness, made no further doubt to unravel the great mystery he had at his heart, and thus began: “It is with a thousand struggles of the soul that I find myself obliged to speak. Landlord, I am very sensible of the obligations I already owe you, and that thought makes me decline being any further burthensome to you; you must know, then, that, having been at Hampstead this afternoon, where I frequently used to go to divert myself with an affectionate brother of mine, I was there a mournful spectator of his death. ’Tis too much for me” (here he pretended to weep) “to acquaint you with every sad particular about the struggles he had before his soul departed out of his body; let it suffice to say that he has left me heir to his possessions (but his life would have been of greater value to me), and in his will appointed me to inter him in the cloisters in Westminster Abbey. Now, Landlord, the favour I have to desire of you is, for convenience of his funeral, to have his body brought here, and carried hence to his grave.”

These last words Chambers pronounced with a deep groan, which made the landlord and all the family compassionate towards him; they told him anything they had was at his service, and the landlord left him at his own liberty to bring the corpse, and choose whatever room he pleased to place it in. He thanked him for his civility, and told him he would certainly repay it very shortly, in a way he should be very sensible of. Which indeed he was as good as his

ARTHUR CHAMBERS

word to perform. Chambers accordingly went out the next morning, leaving word that the hearse with the corpse would be with them about six in the evening. And true was he to his word. For just upon six o'clock a stately hearse with six horses arrived at the door, and men, suborned to this end, took thereout a beautiful coffin, with fine hinges and nails, wherein our adventurer had put himself, there being private holes in the sides for respiration. The counterfeit load was straightway borne up one pair of stairs and placed on a table in the dining-room, where the landlord, to grace the deceased brother of his lodger, had set out a very fine and rich sideboard of plate, besides other valuables. You must know Chambers was laid in the coffin in his clothes, and a winding-sheet wrapped round him, and one of his confederates had taken care to draw the screws. All this time our adventurer was missing, which made the landlord ask the fellows where he was, who said he had bade them acquaint him that having a multitude of things to dispatch about the funeral, it was probable he might not come home that night, but should be obliged to stay with a friend of his in the Strand. The landlord took the excuse for granted, the hearse and men departed, and the family of the house, excepting the maid, at their usual hour went to bed, leaving Chambers to rise out of his silent mansion of death and perpetrate his villainous design.

Accordingly he gets out, with his winding-sheet about him, and going downstairs places himself in a chair over against where the maid was sitting, who, hereby frightened at the apparition, as she thought, screamed out, "A ghost! a ghost!"—and without speaking another word ran as fast as she could up into her master's chamber and told him and his wife the story. "A ghost!" says the master; "phoh, you fool, there's no such thing in nature; you have been asleep, woman, and waking suddenly have fancied you saw a thing there never was." Scarce were these words out of the mouth of the landlord when in steps, with a solemn tread, our adventurer, Chambers, in his winding-sheet, and presenting himself and his face, which was covered over with

NEWGATE CALENDAR

flour, full to the maid, the landlord and his wife, sets himself down in a chair in the room, where he continued full half-an-hour, putting the above three persons into the greatest panic in the world all the time. After which the imaginary ghost stalks downstairs and opens the door to six of his accomplices, who, while their director, Chambers, raps the doors to drown the noise of more persons being in the house than himself, strip the dining-room of all the plate and other rich furniture therein, and then, making a general search throughout the other chambers and the kitchen below, rifle and carry off everything of value to the amount of six hundred pounds. All this while the family, believing a spirit was actually in their house, and making the horrid noise they heard, kept close hid under the bedclothes; but the dawn of day soon appearing, their fears began to abate. Whereupon the maid gets up, and has the courage to go down and see the consequences of the late bustle. She finds all her pots and pans removed effectually out of the way, and a dreadful havoc made among the pewter, which, to the very last plate, has all vanished. She hastens to her master, who is still in bed, acquaints him with the spirit's having robbed the house, and tells him that she cannot in conscience live with him any longer, since a bad and thieving ghost visited his family, which proved that his house was not a good one, nor were the persons that composed his family fit to be lived with. Whereat the landlord could not forbear bursting out into an extreme laughter: "Why, thou silly jade, can it be supposed that ghosts, or spirits, who have neither flesh, blood nor bones, can rob? Phoh, banish thy foolish conceits, and let me come and see what has been a-working all this night." The maid, displeased with her master's words, goes downstairs, and finding some of her fellow-servants and neighbours about the door tells them what she had seen; whereat all seem astonished, and say they should not dare to stir an inch out of their houses in the night if the case was so as she related it. Meantime the landlord had roused his indolent body from his bed and made a strict search in those places where he thought

JACK GOODWIN *ALIAS* PLUMP

the most valuable part of his movables lay, which he found entirely conveyed away ; but coming into the dining-room, and seeing the plate gone, and an empty shell of a coffin, he, too late, is made sensible of the imposition, which we will leave him to mourn, or banish the thoughts of, just as he pleases.

Chambers during a few years committed actions the most daring and artful that were ever known, and he received a just recompense for his ill-spent life at Tyburn in 1706.

JACK GOODWIN *ALIAS* PLUMP

*A young but expert Thief, who was executed at
Tyburn in 1706 for Burglary*

WHEN silver tankards were more in vogue in the ale-houses than they are at present, this fellow, going into one to drink, called for a tankard of ale, which being brought, he drank it off, and having cut out the bottom of it, paid the victualler for his liquor, who, seeing the tankard on the table, had no suspicion that any damage had been done it. But shortly after some other company came in, and the tapster, running into the cellar to fill for them the tankard which Mr Goodwin had been fingering, wondered to see the cock run and the tankard never the fuller, where-upon, turning it up, he could find no more bottom in it than mariners can in the ocean.

Another time Jack Goodwin, being in the country as far as Durham, and destitute of money, happened to meet with another idle companion, with whom he made a bargain to beg their way up to London ; and in order to excite people's pity the more, his new companion was to act the part of a blind man, and he was to be his guide, instead of a dog and a bell. So getting a pennyworth of cereing wax, with which tailors cere the edges of silk and slight stuffs, Jack Goodwin, mollifying it over a candle, daubed his comrade's eyelids therewith, insomuch that he could not open them.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Our couple, thus proceeding on their journey, had, by their cruising or begging through the counties, picked up about the sum of four pounds, sixteen shillings; by that time they had got up to Ware. Next, making the best of their way up to London, within ten or eleven miles of the same, having to cross a small brook over a narrow wooden bridge, with a rail but on one side of it for the convenience of foot-passengers, when they were upon it Goodwin threw his blind comrade into the water, where he stood up to the neck, but moving neither one way nor the other, for fear of being drowned. In the meantime his guide made straight to London. Soon afterwards, some passengers coming by took pity on the fellow, supposing him to be really blind; they helped him out of the brook, and setting him on terra firma, he presently, by their directions, arrived at a house, where, getting some warm water, he washed his eyelids, and having got them opened he marched after his fellow-traveller to London, where he might hunt about long enough before he found him out, for Jack had got into some ill house or another, where he was as safe as a thief in a mill.

The Duke of Bedford visiting a person of quality one night very late, whilst the footmen were gone to drink at some adjacent boozing-ken, or ale-house, and the coachman was taking a nap on his box, Jack Goodwin, coming by at the same time with some of his thieving cronies, took the two hind wheels off the coach and supported it up with two pieces of wood, which they got out of a house which was being built hard by. On his Grace not long after going into his coach, and the footmen getting up behind in a hurry, no sooner did the horses begin to draw but down fell his Grace, footmen and all; who, looking to see how the accident came, found the hind wheels were stolen; whereupon the Duke was obliged to go home in a hackney-coach.

This John Goodwin, *alias* Plump, was condemned, when he was but eleven years of age, for picking a merchant's pocket of one hundred and fifty guineas, and was afterwards

WILLIAM ELBY OTHERWISE DUNN

several times in great danger of his life before justice took hold of him in earnest.

At last, committing a burglary in company with another, when he was but eighteen years of age, he was apprehended and carried before Sir Thomas Stamp, knight and alderman of London, where, after he was examined, being searched, several cords were found in his pocket; upon which his Worship asked Goodwin of what trade he was. He replied: "A tailor."

Then Sir Thomas, taking up the cords and looking suspiciously on them, quoth: "You use, methinks, very big thread." "Yes, sir," said Goodwin, "for it is generally coarse work which I'm employed about."

Next searching his comrade, Henry Williams, a pistol was found loaded in his bosom; upon which Sir Thomas asked him also of what trade he was. He replied: "A tailor too." "What! Both tailors?" said his Worship. "And pray what implement is this belonging to your trade?" Quoth Williams: "That pistol, sir, is my needle-case."

To conclude, Sir Thomas was so astonished at their impudence that he immediately made out their mittimus for Newgate, and being tried at Justice Hall, in the Old Bailey, they were both condemned to die, and soon after executed, at Tyburn, in 1706.

WILLIAM ELBY OTHERWISE DUNN

*An Armed Criminal, who was hanged for Burglary
and Murder at Fulham on the 13th of
September, 1707*

WILLIAM ELBY was indicted at the sessions in the Old Bailey for breaking into the house of Mr James Barry, at Fulham, the 2nd of August, 1707, with intent to rob it; and likewise for the murder of Nicholas Hatfield, by giving him a mortal wound with a rapier near the left breast, of which he died soon after.

The evidence deposed that, Mr Barry hearing a noise

NEWGATE CALENDAR

about his house between twelve and two in the morning, he got up with his wife and man, Nicholas Hatfield, went downstairs, found a window broken open, and espied two men without, at about five yards' distance, one of whom was the prisoner. They then ran immediately upstairs for arms, but Hatfield, stepping into the kitchen, was met by Elby, who drove him into the pantry, and gave him a stab in the breast, of which he died twelve hours afterwards.

In the scuffle between Elby and Hatfield one of the thieves fired a pistol to disengage them, which happened to wound Elby in the leg, and a button was found in the pantry which belonged to Elby's coat, also a bloody sword was found under a haycock, and a receipt that had been given Mr Barry for money paid. The prisoner, who had little to say in his defence, was found guilty of the fact, and received sentence accordingly, upon which he was so impious as to say: "G—d d—n you all."

Elby owned he was guilty of the burglary, but would not confess the murder, neither would he discover his accomplices or any other offences he had committed, and in this obstinacy he all along persisted; and was so peremptory as to say that if any person should ask him any such questions again he would knock him down.

He was hanged in chains at Fulham, on the 13th of September, 1707.

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN

*Executed for robbing and burning the House of Peter
Persode, Esq., St James's Street, Westminster,
in October, 1707*

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN was indicted at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, 16th of October, 1707, for burning and consuming the mansion-house of Peter Persode, Esq., in St James's Street, Westminster.

He was likewise indicted a second time for breaking open the said house about three o'clock on the day above

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN

mentioned and taking from thence a gold tweezer-case and chain, value fifty pounds, a gold watch, seventeen guineas, and valuables.

Mr Persode deposed that the prisoner had been his servant for the space of two months, and was discharged from his service the Monday before the fact was committed, and that the Wednesday following, about ten o'clock at night, he left all his doors and windows fast.

Mrs Persode deposed that when she went to bed she locked up her tweezer-case, watch and other articles; and that about three o'clock in the morning she awoke and smelt a strong smell of smoke. Getting up, she went out of her chamber and found a lighted flambeau in the passage, which had burned the boards; that she then opened the door of a parlour, which was full of smoke, and immediately the room was all on fire, which rushed out of the stairs and raged with such fury that the house was consumed in a quarter of an hour, they not being able to save any of their goods.

Mr Stevenson and Mr Acton, goldsmiths, deposed that the prisoner offered to sell the tweezer-case to them, and asked eight pounds for it, which gave them reason to suspect he had stolen it, and thereupon they stopped it, but the prisoner went away; and upon inquiry they found it to be Mr Persode's property; that afterwards, he coming again to demand the goods, they seized him, and on searching him found two pistols and a dagger about him, with which they were informed he designed to shoot or stab them if they refused to return the tweezer-case.

The prisoner denied the fact, and said he bought the goods of a strange man, but could give no proof of it, nor where he was the night the fact was committed; whereupon the jury found him guilty of both indictments.

All the time he was under condemnation at Newgate he seemed only to meditate on making his escape. He was executed in St James's Street, near St James's House, Westminster; and hanged in chains at Acton Gravel Pits, 24th of October, 1707.¹

¹ See Appendix No. 3.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

JACK HALL

*Who, with two Associates named Bunce and Low,
committed many Robberies, and was executed
at Tyburn in 1707*

JACK HALL was an expert in breaking open houses, going on the footpad, shoplifting or pilfering any small matter that lay in the way—nay, if it were but mops and pails; the “drag,” which is having a hook fastened to the end of a stick, with which they drag anything out of a shop window on a dark evening; and “filing a cly,” which is picking pockets of watches, money, books or handkerchiefs. To this end he used to haunt churches, fairs, markets, public assemblies, shows, and be very busy about the playhouse. And he who performs this last part of thieving commonly gives what he takes to another, that in case he should be found with his hand in any man’s pocket, he might prove his innocence by having nothing about him but what he can justify to be his own.

Having a design once to rob a great merchant in the City of London, he went oftentimes hankering about his house, but could never effect it; whereupon he bethought himself of this stratagem. He was to be put into a pack done up like a bale, and by the contrivance of his comrade, who was very well apparelled, he was to be laid into this merchant’s house in the evening as so much silk, which he was to see next morning, and buy off his hands if they agreed.

Accordingly this bale full of iniquity, wedged inwardly on all sides with coarse cloth and fustian, was laid up in the warehouse. Night being come, and the apprentices weary, two of them, whilst their master was at supper, went to rest themselves, and by accident lay on this bale, which was placed by some others, insomuch that the extreme anguish of their weight being very heavy upon Jack Hall, he could scarce fetch his breath. Upon this he drew out a sharp knife, and making a great hole in the fillet of the bale he also made a deep wound in him that lay most upon

JACK HALL

it, which made him rise and roar out his fellow-apprentice had killed him. Running out to his master in his agony, his fellow-apprentice followed him, and was innocently secured, till a further examination of the matter. In the meanwhile Jack Hall made his escape out of a window, taking only two pieces of velvet along with him.

He was also very good for the "lob," which is going with a consort into any shop to change a pistole or guinea, and having about half of his change the consort cries: "What need you to change? I have silver enough to defray our charges where we are going." Upon this the other throws the money back again into the money-box, but with such dexterity that he has one of the pieces, whether shilling or half-crown, sticking in the palm of his hand, which he carries clean off, without any suspicion of fraud. Again, he was very expert at the "whalebone lay," which is having a thin piece of whalebone daubed at the end with bird-lime, and going into a shop with a pretence to buy something, make the shopkeeper, by wanting this and that thing, turn his back often; and then take the opportunity of putting the whalebone, so daubed with bird-lime, into the till of the counter, which brings up any single piece of money that sticks to it. After which, to give no mistrust, they buy some small matter, and pay the man with a pig of his own sow.

Hall also went with some of his wicked associates upon the "running smobble," which is this: one of them goes into a shop and, pretending to be drunk, after some troublesome behaviour puts out the candles, and taking away whatever comes first to hand he runs off, whilst another flings handfuls of dirt and nastiness into the mouth and face of the person that cries out "Stop thief!" thus putting him or her into a sudden surprise, and giving them an opportunity of going off without apprehending.

Jack Hall, Stephen Bunce and Dick Low, going upon an enterprise at Hackney about twelve of the clock at night, by the help of their betties and short crows made a forcible entry into the house of one Clare, a baker, whose

NEWGATE CALENDAR

journeyman, tied neck and heels, they threw into the kneading-trough, and the apprentice with him. Jack Hall stood sentry over them with a great old rusty back-sword, which he found in the kitchen, and swore with a great grace that both their heads went off as round as a hoop if they offered to stir or budge. In the meantime Dick Low and Stephen Bunce went up to Mr Clare's room, whom they found in bed with his wife, and tied and gagged the old folks, without any consideration of their age, which had left them but few teeth to barricade their gums from the injury they might receive from those ugly instruments that stretched their mouths asunder.

Finding not so much as they expected, they ungagged the old man again, to bring to a confession where he hoarded his money ; but extorting nothing out of him, Jack Hall—being then come up to them, for fear they should sink upon him, which is a usual thing among thieves, to cheat one another—took up in his arms the old man's granddaughter, about six years old, lying in a trundle bed by him, and said : “ D—n me, if I won't bake the child presently in a pie, and eat it, if the old rogue will not be civil.” These scaring words made Mr Clare beg heartily that they should not hurt the child and he would discover what he had ; so fetching, by his order, a little iron-bound chest from under the bed, and unlocking it, they took what was in it, which was about eighty pounds ; then obscuring their dark lanterns they bid the baker good-night, and commanded him to return them thanks that they spared his ears, which is against the law for any of their occupation to wear.

An end came to Hall's wicked crimes in the year 1707, when he deservedly suffered death at Tyburn, with his companions Low and Bunce.

DICK LOW

*Who started thieving at the Age of Eleven. Executed
at Tyburn in 1707, when twenty-five years old*

DICK LOW was an expert thief at the age when others usually begin. One time, when he was about eleven or twelve years old, creeping privately one evening behind a goldsmith's counter in Cheapside, the goldsmith comes from a back room and goes behind the counter, insomuch that Dick Low had no opportunity of going out invisible; whereupon he cries: "Whoop, whoop!" At this the goldsmith cried: "Hey, hey, is this a place to play at whooper's hide? Get you gone, you young rogue, and play in the streets." But Dick, yet lying still, cried again: "Whoop, whoop!"—which made the goldsmith in a great passion cry: "Get you gone, sirrah, or I'll whoop you with a good cane, if you want to play here." Whereupon Dick went away with a bag of fifty pounds, which the goldsmith missed next day.

But as he grew up in years his stature made him past those exercises which they call the morning, noon or night sneak, which is privately sneaking into houses at any of those times and carrying off what next comes to hand; for all is fish that comes to net with them, who are termed Saint Peter's children, as having every finger a fish-hook. He went also upon other lays, such as "taking lobbs from behind rattlers"—that is to say, trunks or boxes from behind coaches; and upon the "mill," which is breaking open houses in the night, for which purpose they have their tinder-boxes, matches, flints, steels, dark lanterns, bags, cords, betties and chisels to wrench. This was then the manner; but at present they have a new way of using a large turning gimlet, or auger, boring holes with which through a wooden window they presently, with a knife, cut out a hole big enough to put in their hand to unbolt it, whereby an honest man is soon undone by these sly rascals, who call themselves "prigs," which, in their canting language, denotes a thief.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

After being a soldier for a short time Dick came home again, and there being one Mr Pemmell, an apothecary, living in Drury Lane, it was his misfortune to have a wife who kept company with one Davis, a glazier; but bad circumstances obliging him to fly for sanctuary to Thornbury, in Gloucestershire, his madonna was in great want of another gallant. However, she being naturally prone to liberality, and always extravagantly rewarding kindnesses of this nature, it was not long ere a particular acquaintance of hers undertook to supply her with a new lover, which was Dick.

As soon as he was introduced into the company of the apothecary's wife she took a huge fancy to him, for he behaved himself so pleasantly, and his caresses were so agreeable, that his mistress esteemed herself the happiest woman in the world in the enjoyment of a person so facetious, and accomplished with all the mysteries of love. Whenever he came to her house, which was always when her husband was from home, she entertained him with such an unreserved freeness that she concealed nothing from her spark that might please either his fancy or curiosity. But one day, opening a chest of drawers, Dick espied a couple of bags of money, at which his mouth instantly watered; and although his mistress told him that as long as one penny was in them his pockets should never be unfurnished, yet he wanted to be master of them presently—and indeed it was not long before he had them at his command, for business requiring the apothecary in the country for about a week, Dick then lay in his house at rack and manger; and having two other rogues like himself at a great supper prepared for them there, they began about twelve of the clock at night to declare their intention with sword and pistol, saying that whoever presumed to speak but one word suffered present death.

To work they now went, gagging and tying first the procurer. In the meantime the apothecary's wife, seeing how her friend was served, fell on her knees and heartily beseeched them not to use her so. Quoth Dick: "No, no, madam; we'll only tie your hands, lest you should ungag that serious, and now silent, bawd there."

DICK LOW

After she was secured they went down into the kitchen and gagged and tied the maid and apprentice ; then, rifling the house, they carried away two hundred and fifty pounds, and some plate to a considerable value. But Dick, thinking it unmannerly to go away without saying anything, went to his late beloved mistress, and giving her a Judas kiss, quoth he : " Dear madam, farewell ; and when I am gone, say I've done more than ever your husband did, for I've bound you to be constant now."

Dick also industriously applied himself to picking of pockets ; and one day he and two others of that profession, having been eight or nine miles in the country, where they were so extravagant as to spend all their money, as they were coming into Hammersmith bethought themselves on the following stratagem to get more before they entered London. Two of them acted the parts of drunken men in the town, reeling, tumbling and abusing several people, who, believing them to be really drunk, let them pass on without much interruption. Hereupon their sober companion, Dick Low, seeing nobody would take them up, resolved to do it himself ; so, meeting them as if by chance, they gave him the jostle ; which not taking so patiently as the others had done, he not only had high words with them, but from words they fell to blows. At last, two being against one, it was thought unequal, and they having been abusive to others a great company was assembled, and among them the constable, who, seizing all three, carried them before a justice, who hearing the matter, and finding by the testimony of the people who went with them that only the two who were drunk were wholly to blame, ordered them to be set in the stocks for two hours, and discharged Dick Low.

This order was obeyed, and the delinquents were presently put into the stocks, where they behaved themselves so pleasantly in foolish discourse that a great number of people hovered about them. In the meantime Dick was not idle, for he had made such havoc among their pockets that in the two hours' time they were in the stocks he had gained

NEWGATE CALENDAR

about eight pounds by the frolic ; then coming to London they fell into hard drinking, like so many drunken Germans, but in the midst of their cups they had the civility, every now and then, to drink the health of all them by whom they had fared the better.

This fellow, though he was not above twenty-five years of age when he was hanged at Tyburn, with Jack Hall and Stephen Bunce, in 1707, had reigned long in his villainy ; and the fortunate success which he had had in his manifold sins only made him repent that he had not practised them sooner.

JACK OVET

*An amorous Highwayman, who was executed at Leicester
in May, 1708*

JACK OVET, a shoemaker by trade, was born at Nottingham, where his abode was for four or five years after he had served his apprenticeship. But being always of a daring, audacious disposition, his unruly temper induced him to keep very lewd and quarrelsome company, and depending on his manhood, it inspired him with an inclination of laying aside his mechanical employment to translate himself into a gentleman, by maintaining that quality on the highway.

Immediately equipping himself, as a highwayman ought, with a good horse, hanger and pistols, he rode towards London ; and on the road had the good success of robbing a gentleman of twenty pounds, who, being one of great courage, told Ovet that if he had not come upon him un-awares, and surprised him at a disadvantage, he should have given him some trouble before he would have parted with his money. Quoth Ovet : “ Sir, I have ventured my life once already in committing this robbery ; however, if you have the vanity to think yourself a better man than me, I’ll venture once more. Here’s your money again ; let it be betwixt us, and whoever of us is the best man let him win it and wear it.” The gentleman very willingly accepted the proposal,

JACK OVET

and making use of their swords on foot, Jack Ovet had the fortune to kill his antagonist on the spot.

Not long after he killed another man in a quarrel at Leicester ; but flying from justice he still cheated the hangman of his due, and without any dread pursued his unlawful courses to the highest pitch of villainy. One day, in particular, meeting the pack-horses of one Mr Rogers, who went from Leominster, in Herefordshire, to London, and being in great want of money, he turned one of them out of the main road into a narrow lane, where, cutting open the pack, he found therein about two hundred and eighty guineas in gold, besides three dozen of silver-hafted knives and forks and spoons, which he carried off. The other pack-horses had gone about two miles before Mr Rogers missed this ; and then making a strict search after it, he found it tied to a tree, and the pack thrown off its back and rifled of what was most valuable.

Another time Jack Ovet, meeting with the Worcester stage-coach on the road, in which were several young gentlemen, robbed them all ; but one of them being a very handsome person, he entertained such a passion for her exquisite charms that when he took her money from her he said : “ Madam, cast not your eyes down, neither cover your face with those modest blushes ; your charms have softened my temper, and I am no more the man I was. What I have taken from you (through mere necessity at present) is only borrowed ; for as no object on earth ever had such an effect on me as you, assure yourself that if you please to tell me where I may direct to you, I’ll upon honour make good your loss to the very utmost.” The young gentlewoman told him where he might send to her, and they parted. It was not above a week after that before Jack sent the following letter to the aforesaid gentlewoman, who had gained such an absolute conquest over his soul that his mind ran now as much upon love as robbing :—

MADAM,—These few lines are to acquaint you that though I lately had the cruelty to rob you of twenty guineas,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

yet you committed a greater robbery at the same time in robbing me of my heart; on which you may behold yourself enthroned, and all my faculties paying their homage to your unparalleled beauty. Therefore be pleased to propose but the method how I may win your belief, and were the way to it as deep as from hence to the centre, I will search it out. For by all my hopes, by all those rites that crown a happy union, by the rosy tincture of your cheeks, and by your all-subduing eyes, I prize you above all the world. Oh, then, my fair Venus, can you be afraid of Love? His brow is smooth, and his face beset with banks full of delight; about his neck hangs a chain of golden smiles. Let us taste the pleasures which Cupid commands, and for that unmerited favour I shall become another man, to make you happy. So requesting the small boon of a favourable answer to be sent me to Mr Walker's, who keeps an ale-house at the sign of the Bell in Thornbury, in Gloucestershire, give me leave to subscribe myself your most humble servant to command for ever,

JOHN BURTON.

THE GENTLEWOMAN'S ANSWER

SIR,—Yours I received with as great dissatisfaction as when you robbed me, and admire at your impudence of offering me yourself for a husband, when I am sensible 'twould not be long ere you made me a hempen widow. Perhaps some foolish girl or another may be so bewitched as to go in white to beg the favour of marrying you under the gallows; but indeed I should venture neither there nor in a church to marry one of your profession, whose vows are treacherous, and whose smiles, words and actions, like small rivulets through a thousand turnings of loose passions, at last arrive to the dead sea of sin. Should you therefore dissolve your eyes into tears, was every accent a sigh in your speech, had you all the spells and magic charms of love, I should seal up my ears that I might not hear your dissimulation. You have already broken your word in not sending

ANNE HARRIS

what you villainously took from me ; but not valuing that, let me tell you, for fear you should have too great a conceit of yourself, that you are the first, to my remembrance, whom I ever hated ; and sealing my hatred with the hopes of quickly reading your dying speech, in case you die in London, I presume to subscribe myself yours never to command,

D. C.

This was the end of Jack Ovet's warm amour, and he was soon after as unsuccessful in his villainy as he was here in love ; for committing a robbery in Leicestershire, where his comrade was killed in the attempt, he was closely pursued by the country, apprehended, and sent to jail. At last, the assizes being held at Leicester, he was condemned. Whilst he was under sentence of death he seemed to have no remorse at all for his wickedness, nor in the least to repent of the blood of two persons which he had shed ; so being brought to the gallows, on Wednesday, the 5th of May, 1708, he was justly hanged in the thirty-second year of his age.

ANNE HARRIS

*Although only Twenty when she was executed at Tyburn, on
13th of July, 1708, she was a notorious Shoplifter,
and her two Husbands had already suffered
the Death Penalty*

ANNE HARRIS, *alias* Sarah Davies, *alias* Thorn, *alias* Gothorn, was born of honest but poor parents, in the parish of St Giles without Cripplegate ; but being debauched by one James Wadsworth, she soon abandoned all manner of goodness. This Wadsworth was otherwise called " Jemmy the Mouth " among his companions. He was hanged for felony and burglary at Tyburn, in the twenty-fourth year of his age, on Friday, the 24th of September, 1702. She next lived with one William Pulman, otherwise called Norwich Will, from the place of his birth, who also made his exit at Hyde Park Corner, on Friday, the 9th of March,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

1704-1705, aged twenty-six years, for robbing one Mr Joseph Edwards on the highway of a pair of leather bags, a shirt, two neckcloths, two pocket-books, twenty-five guineas, a half broad-piece of gold, and four pounds in silver.

Now Nan, being twice left a hempen widow in less than three years, had learned in that time to be as vicious as the very worst of her sex, and was so absolutely enslaved to all manner of wickedness through custom and opportunity that good admonitions could work no good effects upon her. Her inclination was entirely averse to honesty. Bidding adieu to everything that looked like virtue, she drove a great trade among goldsmiths, to whose shops she often went to buy gold rings, but she only cheapened till she had the opportunity of stealing one or two; which she did by means of a little ale held in a spoon over the fire till it congealed thick like a syrup, for by rubbing some of this on the palm of her hand, any light thing would stick to it, without the least suspicion at all. She was as well known among the mercers, lacemen and linendrapers on Ludgate Hill, Cheap-side or Fleet Street as that notorious shoplifter, Isabel Thomas, who was condemned for the same crimes.

But at last she was apprehended for her pranks, and being so often burned in the face that there was no more room left for the hangman to stigmatise her, the Court thought fit to condemn her for privately stealing a piece of printed calico out of the shop of one Mr John Andrews; and she was hanged, in the twentieth year of her age, at Tyburn, on Friday, 13th of July, 1708.

MADAM CHURCHILL

*Who with three Men committed a Murder, and was executed
at Tyburn on 17th of December, 1708*

DEBORAH CHURCHILL, *alias* Miller, was born within six miles of the city of Norwich, in the county of Norfolk, of worthy honest parents, who gave her a very good education, and brought her up in her younger years

MADAM CHURCHILL

in the ways of religion and good manners; but she had wickedly thrown off all those good things which were endeavoured to be fixed in her, and abandoned herself to all manner of filthiness and uncleanness, which afterwards proved her shame and ruin. She was first married to one John Churchill, an ensign in Major-General Faringdon's regiment, by whose name she commonly went, but seldom by her second husband's, who, two or three years before her misfortunes, was married to her in the Fleet Prison, upon agreement first made between them both that they should not live together, nor have anything to do with each other. Which agreement was strictly performed; and so she continued freely to keep company with one Hunt, a Lifeguardsman, as she had begun to do in her former husband's time.

She had lived with the aforesaid Bully Hunt for seven years together in a lascivious and adulterous manner, which broke her first husband's heart, by whom she had two children surviving at the time of her unfortunate death. She had lived also in incontinency about three months with one Thomas Smith, a cooper, who was hanged at Tyburn, on Friday, the 16th day of December, 1709, for breaking open and robbing the house of the Right Honourable the Earl of Westmorland.

She was committed to New Prison for picking a gentleman's pocket of a purse wherein was a hundred and four guineas. Whilst she was there she seemed to be really a pious woman; but her religion was of five or six colours, for this day she would pray that God would turn the heart of her adversary, and to-morrow curse the time that ever she saw him.

She at last got out of this mansion of sorrow also, but soon forgetting her afflictions she pursued her wickedness continually, till she had been sent no less than twenty times to Clerkenwell Bridewell, where, receiving the correction of the house every time, by being whipped, and kept to beating hemp from morning till night for the small allowance of so much bread and water, which just kept life

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and soul together, she commonly came out like a skeleton, and walked as if her limbs had been tied together with packthread. Yet let what punishment would light on this common strumpet, she was no changeling, for as soon as she was out of jail she ran into still greater evils, by deluding, if possible, all mankind.

After Madam Churchill had reigned a long time in her wickedness, as she was coming one night along Drury Lane, in company with Richard Hunt, William Lewis and John Boy, they took occasion to fall out with one Martin Were, and she aggravating the quarrel by bidding them sacrifice the man, they killed him between King's Head Court and Vinegar Yard. The three men who committed this murder made their escape, but she, being apprehended as an accessary therein, was sent to Newgate, and shortly after condemned for it, on the 26th of February, 1708.

After sentence of death was passed on her, her execution was respited, by virtue of a reprieve given her upon account of her being thought to be with child; which she pretended to be, in hopes it might be a means to save her life, or at least put off her death for a time. But when she had lain under condemnation almost ten months, and was found not to be with child, she was called to her former judgment. Then, being conveyed in a coach to Tyburn, on Friday, the 17th of December, 1708, she was there hanged, in the thirty-first year of her age.

CAPTAIN EVAN EVANS

*Clerk to Sir Edmund Andrews, in Guernsey, and later
Highwayman in England. Executed in 1708*

THE title of Captain was only assumed by this noted criminal, who was born in South Wales, and his father, who kept an inn at Brecknock, the chief town in Brecknockshire, having given him a good education, put him apprentice to an attorney-at-law; but by his vicious inclinations, together with the opportunity he had of corresponding

CAPTAIN EVAN EVANS

with some gentlemen of the road (as such rogues affected to call themselves) who frequented his father's house, he soon came to act in the same wicked courses they followed, and in a little time became the most noted highwayman in those parts, having made prodigious booties of the Welsh graziers and others.

The Captain once happening to be under a guard, who were conducting him to Shrewsbury Jail with his legs tied under the belly of the horse, and one of his attendants having an excellent fowling-piece, which was then loaded, the prisoner, espying a pheasant perching upon a tree, with a deep sigh expressed the dexterity he had used formerly in killing such game; so humbly requesting the gun, that he might shoot at so fine a mark, the ignorant fellow readily complied with his request. But no sooner had the Captain got the piece into his hands than he charged upon his guard, and swore a whole volley of oaths that he would fire upon them if they stirred one step farther. Then, retreating from them on his little pony to a convenient distance, he commanded one of them that was best mounted to come near him and alight; which being done, and the bridle of the horse hung on a hedge, the poor fellow was obliged to throw him his pistols, and then was admitted to approach nearer the Captain, who, presenting one of them at his head, obliged him to loose his legs and retire to his companions. This being also done, he soon left his little scrub, mounted the fine gelding, and rode off.

The Captain then coming to London, the country being too hot to hold him, upon his handsome behaviour and carriage, which was somewhat extraordinary, as likewise his person, he got to be clerk to Sir Edmund Andrews, then Governor of Guernsey, and continued there in that capacity for three or four years; but money not coming in fast enough in that honest employment to support his wicked inclinations, he soon left that service, returned to London, and took a lodging at the Three Neats' Tongues, in Nicholas Lane, where he passed for a Guernsey merchant, or captain of a ship, and took his younger brother, William Evans, as

NEWGATE CALENDAR

a servant to wait on him, giving him a livery, under the colour of which he committed several notorious robberies on the highways about London.

One of his boldest and most daring robberies was committed on Squire Harvey, of Essex, between Mile End and Bow, in the daytime, from whom he took a diamond ring, and money to a considerable value, as he was riding home in his coach from the Cathedral Church of St Paul's, the late Queen Anne having that day honoured the city with her Royal presence.

Some time after that, meeting not far from Hampstead with one Gambol, a writing-master, living in Exeter Street, behind Exeter Exchange, in the Strand, walking with his wife, he made bold to command them to deliver what money they had, which they very obstinately refusing, the Captain violently took what money he found in their pockets, which was about thirty or forty shillings, and for their presumption of not being obedient to the doctrine of non-resistance obliged them, upon pain of death, to strip themselves stark naked, and then, tying them close, bound them to a tree and rode off. But before he left them he had chalked in great letters just over their heads on the body of the tree that Gambol and his wife were Adamites, which is a sort of sect which teaches their proselytes, both men and women, to pray in their meetings, and perform other divine services, stark naked; which posture they call the state of innocency, and the places they assemble in Paradise.

One remarkable robbery he committed with his brother was this. As he was travelling along Portsmouth Road, in Surrey, meeting a parcel of headboroughs, or constables, conducting about thirty poor fellows they had pressed to Portsmouth garrison, Captain Evans asked the reason of their being led so, as captives tied with cords. The officers told him they were for the service, and that they had ten shillings for each man they had so impressed. He highly commended them for performing their duty and rode off. But coming up with them again in a more convenient place, he and his brother attacked them with so much fury that,

DICK HUGHES

setting all the prisoners at liberty, they robbed all the head-boroughs of every penny they had, and then, binding them hand and foot in a field, they made the best of their way off.

Having intelligence of the Chester coach's coming with passengers to London, Captain Evans sent his brother William the night before to lie at Barnet, and to be in Baldock Lane at a certain time next morning. But the poor lad happening to light on a Scots cheesemonger who was travelling to Edinburgh, and he pretending to be going some part of the way on his master's occasions, they must needs lie together, and proceed on their journey next day. When they had got into Baldock Lane, a pistol, to the great surprise of the Scotsman, was fired over Will's head by the Captain, that being the signal proposed; they then soon commanded the Scotsman to lie by, and in sight robbed all the coaches. Then in thunderclaps of oaths the Captain, riding up to the Scotsman, robbed him of seven guineas and two watches; but by Will's intercession, who had lain with him all night, returned him his best watch, and three guineas to bear his charges into his own country; for which generous action the same Scotsman hanged them both at the assizes held at Hertford in 1708, the Captain aged twenty-nine years, and his brother Will twenty-three.

DICK HUGHES

*A Robber whose thoughtful Wife bought the Rope to hang him.
Executed at Tyburn in June, 1709*

THIS great villain, Richard Hughes, was the son of a very good yeoman living at Bettws, in Denbighshire, in North Wales, where he was born, and followed husbandry, but would now and then be pilfering in his very minority, as he found opportunity. When he first came up to London, on his way money being short, necessity compelled him to steal a pair of tongs at Pershore, in Worcestershire, for which he was sent to Worcester Jail; and at the assizes held there, the matter of fact being plainly proved against

NEWGATE CALENDAR

him, the judge directed the jury to bring him in guilty only of petty larceny; and accordingly, giving in their verdict guilty to the value of tenpence, he came off with crying carrots and turnips, a term which rogues use for whipping at the cart's tail.

After this introduction to further villainy, Dick Hughes, coming up to London, soon became acquainted with the most celebrated villains in this famous metropolis, especially with one Thomas Lawson, *alias* Browning, a tripe man, who was hanged at Tyburn on Tuesday, the 27th of May, 1712, for felony and burglary, in robbing the house of one Mr Hunt, at Hackney. In a very short time he became noted for his several robberies; but at last, breaking open a victualling-house at Lambeth, and taking from thence only the value of three shillings, because he could find no more, he was tried and condemned for that fact at the assizes held at Kingston-upon-Thames; but was then reprieved, and afterwards pleaded his pardon at the same place. Now being again at liberty, instead of becoming a new man he became rather worse than before, breaking open and robbing several houses, at Tottenham Cross, Harrow-on-the-Hill, a gentlewoman's house at Hackney, a gentleman's at Hammersmith, a minister's near Kingston-upon-Thames, a tobacconist's house in Red Cross Street, and a house on Hounslow Heath.

Burglaries being the masterpiece of Dick Hughes's villainy, he went chiefly on them; till at last, breaking open and robbing the house of one Mr George Clark, at Twickenham, he was apprehended for this fact, and committed to Newgate.

Whilst he lay under condemnation, his wife, to whom he had been married in the Fleet Prison, constantly visited him at chapel. She was a very honest woman, and had such an extraordinary kindness for her husband under his great afflictions that when he went to be hanged at Tyburn, on Friday, the 24th of June, 1709, she met him at St Giles's Pound, where, the cart stopping, she stepped up to him, and whispering in his ear, said: "My dear, who must

GRACE TRIPP

find the rope that's to hang you—me or the sheriff?" Her husband replied: "The sheriff, honey; for who's obliged to find him tools to do his work?" "Ah!" replied his wife, "I wish I had known so much before; it would have saved me twopence, for I have been and bought one already." "Well, well," said Dick again, "perhaps it mayn't be lost, for it may serve a second husband." "Yes," quoth his wife, "if I have any luck in good husbands, so it may." Then, the cart driving on to Hyde Park Corner, this notorious villain ended his days there, in the thirtieth year of his age; and was after anatomised at Surgeons' Hall, in London.

GRACE TRIPP

*Convicted of Murder on Evidence of the actual Perpetrator
of the Crime, and executed at the Age of Nineteen at
Tyburn, 27th of March, 1710*

GRACE TRIPP was a native of Barton, in Lincolnshire; and after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country she came to London, was some time in a reputable family, and then procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington.

During her stay in this last service she became connected with a man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing her master's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. Hereupon it was concerted between them that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all of the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town; but this housekeeper, hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate; on which Peters seized her and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about thirty guineas; with which, and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street door open.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

The offenders were taken in a few days, when Peters having been admitted as evidence for the Crown, Grace Tripp was convicted, at the age of nineteen years, and executed at Tyburn, on 27th of March, 1710.

JACK ADDISON

*Committed fifty-six Highway Robberies, and was
executed at Tyburn in March, 1711*

fellow was born in the parish of Lambeth, and for some time had been in the sea and land service, but for the most part of his life followed the trade of a butcher. He kept company much with ill women, especially one Kate Speed, and for the maintenance of her he went upon the footpad, committing several most notorious robberies of that nature with William Jewel and Peter Cartwright, the latter of whom was hanged at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 18th of July, 1711.

One time, meeting with a parson between Westbourne Green and Paddington, he took from him five guineas, which putting into his own pocket, quoth Jack: "'Tis as safe there as in yours." "That I believe," replied the parson; "but I hope, sir, you'll be so civil as to give me some of it back again." Said Jack then: "Alas, sir, I wonder how a man in your coat can be so unconscionable as to desire anything out of this small matter; but I tell you what, sir; if you can tell me what part of speech your gold is, I'll return it all again." The parson, thinking the money was his own again, told him it was a noun substantive, as anything was to which he could put "a" or "the." "No, no," replied Jack, "you are out now; I perceive you are no good grammarian, for where your gold is at present it is a noun-adjective, because it can be neither seen, felt, heard nor understood." So, leaving the parson to ruminate on his mistake, away Jack went about his unlawful business again.

A little while after this, meeting on the road betwixt

JACK ADDISON

Hammersmith and Kensington with one Palmer, a victualler, who formerly kept the King's Head ale-house, in King's Head Court, in Drury Lane, he took from him a silver watch and eighteen shillings; and Mr Palmer desiring Jack to give him some small matter to bear his charges up to London, quoth he: "Had you been an honest tradesman, perhaps I might have considered you; but as I know you wear a blue flag, I will not give you a farthing, because all of your profession neither eat, drink nor think but at other men's charges."

Afterwards meeting betwixt Hampstead and Kentish Town with a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, and taking from him a gold watch, a silver snuff-box and two guineas, quoth he to Jack: "I'd have you take care what you do, for I am a lawyer; and if you should come into my hands I should be very severe upon you." Addison replied: "I value not the severity of all the lawyers in England, who only learn to frame their cases from public riddles and imitating Merlin's prophecies, and so set all the Cross Row together by the ears; yet your whole law is not able to decide Lucian's old controversy betwixt *Tau* and *Sigma*." So binding the lawyer hand and foot, he left him to plead his cause by himself.

Not long after this exploit, Jack, meeting a serjeant of the Poultry Compter coming from Islington, commanded him to stand and deliver, or else he would shoot him through the head. The fellow being surprised gave him forty shillings, desiring at the same time that he would be so civil as to return him what he pleased back again. But Jack, knowing his rascally function, quoth: "Sirrah, was the tenth part of a farthing to save your life, nay, your soul, I would not give it, because thou art the spawn of a broken shopkeeper, who takes delight in the ruin of thy fellow-creatures! The misery of a poor man is the offal on which you feed, and money is the crust you leap at; your walks in term time are up Fleet Street, but at the end of the term up Holborn and so to Tyburn, for the gallows is your pur-lieu, in which you and the hangman are quarter rangers;

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the one turns off, and the other cuts down." At these words, quoth the serjeant: "And I hope I shall have the happiness of cutting you down too one of these days." "Perhaps so," replied Jack, "but you shall devour a great many more of the sheriff's custards first." So tying him neck and heels, he bound the serjeant to his good behaviour, till some passengers came by to release him.

He had committed fifty-six robberies thus on foot, and at last being apprehended, upon the information of one Will Jewel, a prisoner in the Marshalsea Prison, in Southwark, for robbing his Excellency the Duke d'Aumont, the French Ambassador here, he was committed to Newgate, and tried at Justice Hall, in the Old Bailey, for assaulting and robbing on the queen's highway Mr Matthew Beazly, Mr William Winslow, Mr Disney Stanniford, Mr Robert Sherwood and Mr Joseph Ashton, on the 30th of November and 20th of December, 1710, and the 6th of February, 1711; for which, being cast and condemned, he was hanged at Tyburn, on Friday, the 2nd of March following, aged twenty-three years.

RICHARD THORNHILL, Esq.

*Convicted of Manslaughter on 18th of May, 1711, for
killing Sir Cholmondeley Deering in a Duel*

SIR CHOLMONDELEY DEERING and Mr Richard Thornhill had dined together on the 7th of April, 1711, in company with several other gentlemen, at the Toy, at Hampton Court, when a quarrel arose, which occasioned the unhappy catastrophe that afterwards happened.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley struck Mr Thornhill, and a scuffle ensuing, the wainscot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other stamped on him, and beat out some of his teeth. The company now interposing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to ask pardon; but Mr Thornhill said that asking pardon was not a proper retaliation for

RICHARD THORNHILL

the injury he had received ; adding : “ Sir Cholmondeley, you know where to find me.” Soon after this the company broke up, and the two men went home in different coaches, without any further steps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April Sir Cholmondeley went to the coffee-house at Kensington and asked for Mr Thornhill. He not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the servant showed him into the dining-room, to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands ; and soon afterwards Mr Thornhill, coming to him, asked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small-beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill Fields, and there advanced towards each other, in a resolute manner, and fired their pistols almost in the same moment.

Sir Cholmondeley, being mortally wounded, fell to the ground ; and Mr Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy catastrophe, was going away when a person stopped him, told him he had been guilty of murder, and took him before a Justice of the Peace, who committed him to prison.

On the 18th of May, 1711, Richard Thornhill, Esq., was indicted at the Old Bailey sessions for this murder. In the course of this trial the above-recited facts were proved, and a letter was produced, of which the following is a copy :—

8th April, 1711.

SIR,—I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morning, and desire you will give me a meeting with your sword and pistols, which I insist on. The worthy gentleman who brings you this will concert with you the time and place. I think Tothill Fields will do well ; Hyde Park will not, at this time of year being full of company. I am, your humble servant,

RICHARD THORNHILL.

Mr Thornhill's servant swore that he believed this letter to be his master's handwriting ; but Mr Thornhill hoped

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the jury would not pay any regard to this testimony, as the boy had acknowledged in court that he never saw him write.

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr Thornhill was of a peaceable disposition, and that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a remarkably quarrelsome temper. On behalf of Mr Thornhill it was further deposed that on Sir Cholmondeley being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair usage he replied: "No: poor Thornhill! I am sorry for him; this misfortune was my own fault, and of my own seeking; I heartily forgive him, and desire you all to take notice of it, that it may be of some service to him, and that one misfortune may not occasion another."

The jury acquitted Mr Thornhill of the murder, but found him guilty of manslaughter; in consequence of which he was burned in the hand.

TOM GERRARD

*Taught a Dog to pick Pockets, and was executed for
Housebreaking at Tyburn in August, 1711*

OF all the two hundred and forty-two malefactors who were executed at Tyburn, and elsewhere in and about London, from the beginning of Sir Thomas Abney's mayoralty to the end of Sir Richard Hoare's, this Thomas Gerrard was not, for the short time he triumphed in his villainy, inferior to any of them for wickedness. He was born in the parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields, of good and honest parents, who kept the Red Lion Inn in Holborn. He took to the trade of thieving, following it for a considerable time, whereby he had often been in Newgate, and was condemned once before he committed the fact for which he at last suffered death.

One time Gerrard, having committed a great robbery in London, and fearing to be apprehended for it, stole a horse worth above thirty pounds and rode into Lincolnshire, where, lying at a by-inn within a mile of Grantham, and espying a very large punch-bowl made of a new-fashioned

TOM GERRARD

mixed metal resembling plate, brought to some company, he supposed it to be really silver, and by its bigness to be worth nearly sixty pounds. Then going to bed, and observing this bowl to be locked up in a closet in the room where he lay, he broke it open in the dead of the night and privately carried off the imaginary plate, without his horse, to Newark-upon-Trent, where, being made sensible it was not silver, he threw it into the river, but damned himself to the very pit of hell for being such a fool as to leave a horse of considerable value for a bargain not worth twenty shillings. However, to be revenged on the people, who had got sufficient by his covetousness, he went, about a month after, to the house, when it was late at night, and setting fire to it burned it down to the ground in less than two hours ; and by this villainous action ruined a whole family.

This base offender had a dog, which he had taught to pick pockets as well as the best artist whatever of that profession ; but after the untimely end of his master, seeking out for another, who should he pitch upon but Dr ——, the Presbyterian parson, on whom he mightily fawned ; and being a pretty dog, he was liked by that reverend gentleman, who made very much of him, till one day, going through Newgate Street, whilst he went into a tobacconist's shop to buy some tobacco, his new dog in the meantime ran into Newgate Market and fetched him a purse, in which was betwixt thirty and forty shillings, which he received without asking any questions. The old doctor presently stepping in somewhere else, the dog ran again to Newgate Market, and fetched him another purse, with much such another sum of money, and gave him that too. The doctor, looking now on his dog to be a great offender in that kind, as soon as he came home called this criminal to justice, and very fairly hanged the poor cur, for fear he should at last pick pockets in his meeting-house.

Though housebreaking was the chief villainy which Tom Gerrard went upon, yet sometimes he counterfeited bank-notes, Exchequer bills, malt tickets, bills of sale or seamen's tickets, signed with any intricate hand.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

A certain profane gentleman in Leicester Fields once had a parrot, which he taught to swear and curse more than anything else. One day it happened that Tom Gerrard, sneaking about dinner-time into the parlour where Poll was hanging in a cage, went to the sideboard and took off several pieces of plate; but the parrot, having an eye upon him, set up her throat and fell a-screaming out: "Thieves, G—d d—n you! Thieves, thieves, by G—d, make haste!" This uproar quickly alarmed the servants, who, running to see the cause of Poll's swearing and cursing after this manner, apprehended Tom Gerrard, on whom they found half-a-dozen silver spoons, and as many forks of the same metal; for which he was burned in the hand.

Thomas Gerrard and Tobias Tanner were both indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of William Gardiner, in the night-time, and taking from thence eight dozen pairs of worsted stockings, value ten pounds, and eight pounds' weight of thread, twenty-five shillings, with other things of value, the goods of the said William Gardiner, on the 10th of August, 1710. It appeared that the prosecutor, about midnight on the date aforesaid, was knocked up by the watch, and found his house broken open and his goods gone. To fix it upon the prisoners, one John Audrey, a person concerned with them, deposed that himself, with the prisoners, and a person not taken, broke into the prosecutor's shop, through the brickwork under a window, about twelve at night, took away the goods, and sold them to Mat Bunch for three pounds six shillings, which was equally divided amongst them. Gerrard upon his trial confessed the fact; but the evidence being not strong enough against Tanner, he was acquitted. Gerrard was accordingly ordered for execution, which he suffered at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 24th of August, 1711, aged twenty-four years.

WILL MAW

*Having committed a Robbery, Maw ordered his Wife to
organise a Mock Funeral, so that People should think
he was dead. He was executed at Tyburn in*

October 1711

THIS noted villain, aged fifty years when he was hanged, was born at Northallerton, in Yorkshire, from whence he came to London, at about twenty years of age, and served his apprenticeship with a cabinetmaker, and for a great while followed that occupation in the parish of St Giles's, Cripplegate, where he dwelt for above eighteen years together; and for many years before his death, having left off working at his trade, he maintained himself by some illegal ways of living, such as the buying of stolen goods, and thereby encouraging thieves and robbers. He had also been addicted to coining, and for some of his irregular actions had a fine of ten pounds laid upon him in September, 1705, was burned in the hand in April, 1710, and in September following, and twice ordered to hard labour in Bridewell.

Having once committed a robbery, for which he was afraid to be apprehended, when he lived in Golden Lane, he pretended to be very sick at home, and ordered his wife to give out that he was dead. His wife, being a cunning baggage, so ordered the matter that she cleanly executed his command, bought him a coffin, invited about forty or fifty neighbours to the funeral, and followed the corpse in a mournful condition, as if her poor husband had been dead indeed. As they were coming by the Red Cross ale-house, at the end of Red Cross Street, to St Giles's Churchyard, near Cripplegate, some company who were drinking at the door were inquisitive to know who was dead, and told it was old Maw, whom they knew very well.

About five years afterwards one of those persons who were drinking, as aforesaid, was a prisoner in Wood Street Compter for debt, and Maw coming in also a little after him,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the former person was so surprised at the latter that at first he had not power to speak to him ; but at length recovering some courage, as dreading he had seen a ghost, quoth he : " Is not your name Maw, sir ? " Maw replied : " Yes, sir ; as sure as your name is Watkins." The other said again : " Why, I thought you had been dead and buried five years ago ! " " Yes," replied Maw, " so I was, in trespasses and sins." " But I mean," said Watkins, " laid yourself corporally in the grave." " No," replied Maw, " I was not dead ; but being at that time under some troubles, I was at the charge of a coffin to save my neck, and my wife gave out I was really defunct, supposing then my adversaries would not look for me in my grave."

After a long course of iniquities Maw was at last committed to Newgate himself, and at the ensuing sessions convicted of five indictments ; and on Wednesday, the 29th of October, 1711, he met with the punishment he so well deserved, at the usual place of execution.

DAVY MORGAN

*Executed at Presteigne in April, 1712, for murdering
Edward Williams*

DAVY MORGAN was born at Brecknock, the chief town in Brecknockshire, in South Wales, whence he came up to London in the quality of a serving-man to a Welsh knight, when about eighteen years of age ; but young as he was, he quickly learned to rob his master of money and clothes, to the value of above ten pounds, and then ran away from his service.

Being now his own master, the company he kept was none of the best, for they were all the greatest housebreakers, pickpockets and shoplifters, both in town and country ; by whose conversation becoming as wicked as the best of them, he had not long turned thief before he broke open the house of a Venetian ambassador in Pall Mall and robbed him of above two hundred pounds' worth of plate, for which,

DAVY MORGAN

being shortly after apprehended, he was committed to the Gatehouse at Westminster.

After he had procured his liberty again he broke, one night, into the house of Doctor Titus Oates, in Axe Yard, in Westminster, and stood sentinel over that reverend divine whilst his comrades rifled most of the rooms; and then, tying him neck and heels, after the same manner as they do a soldier, with a couple of muskets which they found in the kitchen, Davy very sorely gagged him, saying that if his mouth had been as well crammed but a few years ago, he had not sworn so many men's lives away for pastime.

Another time, getting into a gaming-house frequented much by Bully Dawson, and perceiving he had won a great deal of money, he requested the favour of speaking a word or two with him in the next room. Dawson, taking him to be some chub or cully, went along with him, where, shutting the door, Davy pulls out a pistol, and presenting it to his breast, quoth he: "I want money, sir, for a very extraordinary occasion; therefore deliver what you have without any resistance, for if you make but the least noise soever I'll shoot you through the heart, though I were sure to die on the spot." Bully Dawson, being strangely surprised at these words, and dreading what a desperate man might do in his rage, gave him all his money, which was about eighteen guineas. Then, tying him hand and foot, Davy went about his business. By that time the bully thought this bold robber was gone, so calling out for help, several sharpening gamesters came out of the gaming-room to him and, untying him, asked how that adventure came to pass. Which Dawson relating through several volleys of loud oaths, they fell a-laughing heartily at him, and cried: "Dawson, 'twas a fair nick."

At last Davy Morgan, having committed a great robbery in London, in breaking open a Jew's house in Duke's Place, and taking from thence above two thousand pounds in gold, fled into Wales; and in Presteigne, in Radnorshire, did not only rob the church of its communion plate, but also broke open the house of one Edward Williams, whom he

NEWGATE CALENDAR

barbarously murdered. But being apprehended at Bristol, and sent to jail in the county where he committed this most barbarous crime, he was executed at Presteigne, in April, 1712, aged forty-three years, and hanged in chains.

COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON

*Convicted of Manslaughter, 11th of September, 1712, as
Second in a Duel between the Duke of Hamilton
and Lord Mahon*

JOHN HAMILTON, Esq., of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th of September, 1712, for the murder of Charles Lord Mahon, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 15th of November preceding; and at the same time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mahon and George Macartney, Esq., in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon; and having pleaded not guilty to these indictments, the witnesses proceeded to give their testimony in substance as follows:—

Rice Williams, footman to Lord Mahon, proved that, his master having met the Duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a Master in Chancery, on Thursday, the 13th of November, a misunderstanding arose between them respecting the testimony of an evidence: that when his lord came home at night he ordered that no person should be admitted to speak with him the next morning except Mr Macartney: that on the Saturday morning, about seven o'clock, this evidence, having some suspicion that mischief would ensue, went towards Hyde Park, and seeing the Duke of Hamilton's coach going that way he got over the Park wall; but just as he arrived at the place where the duellists were engaged he saw both the noblemen fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the seconds, one of whom he knew to be Mr Macartney; and the other (but he could not swear it was the prisoner) said: "We have made a fine piece of work of it."

COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceased noblemen and their seconds had been at those taverns, and from what could be recollected from their behaviour it appeared that a quarrel had taken place and a duel was in agitation; and some of the Duke's servants and other witnesses deposed to a variety of particulars, all which tended to the same conclusion.

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed that, as he was walking his horses towards Hyde Park, he followed a hackney-coach with two gentlemen in it, whom he saw alight by the lodge and walk together towards the left part of the ring, where they were about a quarter of an hour when he saw two other gentlemen come to them: that, after having saluted each other, one of them, who he was since told was the Duke of Hamilton, threw off his cloak, and one of the other two, who he now understands was Lord Mahon, his surtout coat, and all immediately drew: that the Duke and Lord pushed at each other but a very little while when the Duke closed, and took the Lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned, and the Duke fell upon him: that just as Lord Mahon was dropping he saw him lay hold of the Duke's sword, but could not tell whether the sword was at that time in his body; nor did he see any wound given after the closing, and was sure Lord Mahon did not shorten his sword. He declared he did not see the seconds fight, but they had their swords in their hands, assisting the lords.

The defence made by the prisoner was that the Duke called him to go abroad with him, but he knew not anything of the matter till he came into the field.

Some Scottish noblemen and other gentlemen of rank gave Mr Hamilton a very advantageous character, asserting that he was brave, honest and inoffensive; and the jury, having considered of the affair, gave a verdict of "manslaughter"; in consequence of which the prisoner prayed the benefit of the statute, which was allowed him.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

JACK BLEWIT

*Was taken into Slavery by the Blacks on Pirates' Island.
After gaining his Liberty and returning to England
he became a Highwayman. Executed in 1713
for the Murder of a Farmer's Daughter*

JOHAN BLEWIT was born near Bull Inn Court, in the Strand. His father was a shoemaker, and bred him up to the same trade. But he had not been bound above three years before the old man died, and Jack soon after became too headstrong for his mother to manage him. As he advanced in years, so did he in vice. In the reign of King James II. he changed what little he had of the Protestant religion for about the same quantity of the Roman Catholic, being in hopes of getting himself promoted by this compliance with the times. He entered under the Earl of Salisbury against the Prince of Orange, by which means he got a horse, and he was a professed lover of riding. But he did not long continue in this military station, for upon King William's accession to the throne this newly raised regiment, being mostly Papists, was presently disbanded, and he was put to new shifts to get his bread.

He was resolved to try if he could better his fortune at sea; so going on board a ship bound for Guinea, sailing to Old Calabar, they entered the river called the Cross river, into Pirates' Island, where, after they had taken in their negroes, and were ready to sail, the master called up the boatswain, and three men more, one of whom was Jack, to look out the copper bars that were left, and carry them on shore to sell. The boatswain with his small company desired they might have arms, not believing the inhabitants were so harmless a people as reported. They took with them three muskets and one pistol, and so rowed towards the shore; but unhappily their match fell into the water, and the ship being fallen down lower towards the sea, and they ashamed to go back without dispatching their business, Jack went ashore to the first house to light the match.

JACK BLEWIT

Before he was twenty rods from the water-side he was seized on by half-a-score of blacks, or rather tawny Moors, and by them hauled half-a-mile up into the country, and thrown with great violence upon his belly, and so compelled to lie till they had stripped him. In the meantime, more company coming, they were so eager for his poor canvas apparel that some they tore off, and some they cut off, and therewith several pieces of his flesh, to his intolerable pain, and with those rags they made themselves little aprons.

Whilst all this was being done, Jack's clothing being very scarce there, his comrades made the best of their way back again to their ship, telling the captain what had befallen them, in having Jack taken from them by savage natives. Blewit was now sold to a master, who was free to discourse, after he had learned in less than three months the Tata language, which is easily attained, being comprehended in few words, and all the negroes speak it. After being four months in the country his master presented him to the King of the Buccaneers, whose name was Esme, who immediately gave him to his daughter Onijah. When the King went abroad Jack attended him as his page-of-honour throughout the whole circuit of his dominions, which was not above twelve miles; yet his Majesty boasted exceedingly of his power and strength, and gloried extremely that he had a white man to attend him, whom he employed to carry his bows and arrows.

During all the time Jack was a slave to this prince he never knew him to go abroad and come home sober. But after two months' service the King of Calanach, called Mancha, hearing of this white, courted his neighbour prince to sell him, and accordingly he was sold, for a cow and a goat. This king was sober, free from the debaucheries and mischiefs the other was subject to, and would often inquire of him concerning the head of his country, and whether the kingdom he was of was bigger than his own, whose whole dominions were not above twenty-five miles in length and fifteen miles in breadth.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Jack told as much as was convenient, keeping within the bounds of modesty, yet relating as much as possible to the honour and dignity of his Queen, informing him of the greatness of one of her kingdoms, the several shires and counties it contained, with the number of its cities, towns and castles, and strength of each, the infinite inhabitants, and valour of her subjects; which so amazed this petty prince that he needed to mention no more of her Majesty's glory and dignity. It put him into such a profound consternation that he resolved to find out some way to tender his respects to this mighty princess, and could study none more convenient than that if he could find a passage he would let him go to England, to inform Queen Anne of the great favour and respect he had for her, and carry her a present, which should be two cabareets, or goats, which they value at a high rate, this king himself having not above seventeen or eighteen.

Though our captive lived happily with this prince, yet his desires and hopes were still to return to his native country. At length he promised him that the first English ship which came into the roads should have liberty to release or purchase him. This much rejoiced Jack's heart, and he now thought every day a year till he could hear or see some English ship arrive. The ship came in, the commander whereof was Captain Royden, who had put in there for negroes. The day after his arrival the King let Jack go, sending him in a canoe, placed between a negro's legs, with others to guide this small vessel, for fear he should leap overboard and swim to the ship. At a distance he hailed her in English, to the great surprise of those within her. The negroes let him stand up and show himself to the captain, to whom he gave an account of his slavery; and being redeemed for five iron bars, he was taken on board, where the seamen charitably apparelled him (for he was naked) and brought him safe to England, after fourteen months' slavery.

Jack being back home again was resolved never to venture his carcass again at sea. Deciding to try his fortune on

JACK BLEWIT

the highway, he stole a horse out of a field by Marylebone. Still wanting a saddle, pistols and other accoutrements, he was obliged to sell the horse to buy all materials to make him a complete highwayman, and proposed to steal another. To Smithfield he rides to make the best market he could, but he had scarce rode a turn or two before the owner came up and challenged his horse; so poor Jack, being apprehended, and carried before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate.

When he was tried, being condemned, he most earnestly begged the Court to show him mercy, by transportation, or any other punishment but death. As it was his first crime, and the prosecutor had his horse again, it was his good luck to obtain a reprieve, and to plead to a pardon, too, within three or four months after his confinement.

Jack now being at liberty again, he was put to his trumps how to live; and though he was unsuccessful in his first attempt at thieving, he would yet venture a second time, resolving now to lose the horse or win the saddle. But his thoughts not aspiring to great matters, as they did at first, he was resolved to try how Fortune would smile on his adventures on the footpad; so one evening, going over Clapham Common, he overtook a gentleman riding softly along, whom unawares he knocked off his horse, by giving him an unlucky blow under his ear, which killed him. He fell to rifling him, and took from him forty guineas and a gold watch worth twenty guineas more. When he had done this, putting one of the deceased's feet into one of the stirrups, the horse dragged him up and down the Common an hour or two before he was taken up. At last, being carried to a house, and the coroner sitting on his body, the inquest brought in his death to be occasioned by accidentally falling off his horse, though he had lost his watch and money, which they supposed were dropped out of his breeches by the position he was in, of his head downwards, whilst he was dragged about the Common.

Having thus by this complicated piece of villainy lined his pockets, Jack made the best of his way to Yorkshire,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

where, after clothing himself, he bought a horse, sword and pistols, and then sought out for new adventures on the road. In Hertfordshire, overtaking a farmer's daughter, he shot her through the head and robbed her of fourteen pounds in money, which she had that day received for her father. The same evening he put up at an inn at Ware, whither a hue-and-cry coming shortly after, he was taken up on suspicion, having some spots of blood on one of the lapels of his coat; and being struck then with a remorse of conscience, he confessed the murder, and was forthwith carried before a Justice of the Peace, who, after a long examination, committed him to Hertford Jail. To drive away sorrow from his breast he got drunk every day until the time of his trial, which was in the Lent Assizes, 1713, when he was condemned for his life. When he was carried to the place of execution he confessed having committed the murder on Clapham Common, as before related, and then, after many devout ejaculations, he was turned off, in the forty-fifth year of his age.

TOM GRAY

*Highwayman who set Fire to a Prison. Executed
at Tyburn in March, 1713*

TOM GRAY was born in the parish of St James's, Clerkenwell, of very honest parents, who put him apprentice to a tailor, with whom he served out his time, but not without some shrewd suspicion of wronging his master sometimes, which was three or four times made up with a sum of money. But when the term of his apprenticeship was expired, taking great delight in going to Beveridge's Masquerade School, in Short's Gardens, which was the nursery a long time for bringing up a great many wicked villains, he there got acquainted with such a pack of rogues that their fellows were not to be met with on this side the grave.

Here Gray, being enamoured with one Pat King, took to

TOM GRAY

such irregularities that they soon brought him to be burned in the hand. A little after which disgrace, his father dying, and leaving him about eighty or ninety pounds, he had then so much thought in him as to quit the society of all his wicked companions, by leaving London and going to the city of Oxford, where he kept a victualling-house for some years; and improving his stock there, he left off that employment and came up to London again, where, with what money he had, he set up a salesman's shop in Monmouth Street, in the parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields. This occupation he followed about three years, when, encumbrances with debt lying very heavy on him, he left his house and quickly complied with the wicked insinuations of bad men again, and embraced the unhappy opportunities of doing a great deal of mischief to honest people.

Now he had grown so abominably wicked that he committed not a fact but what was worthy of death. Beginning first to go on the footpad, he went one day into an inn in Beaconsfield, where he pulled out an old horseshoe which he had found on the road; then, calling for a flagon of ale, he desired the landlady to lend him a frying-pan, into which he put his horseshoe, and fell to frying it as fast as he could, to the great surprise of all the company who were drinking in the kitchen. "But," quoth he, "had I now but one slice of bacon with this horseshoe, I should have a dinner fit for a prince." There being two or three good flitches on a rack over his head, the landlady cut him off a good handsome slice or two, perhaps not so much out of generosity as for fear of having her frying-pan burned to pieces, for want of butter or dripping with the horseshoe.

"Now," quoth Gray, "had I but two or three eggs too, to fry with my horseshoe and bacon, I would not change dinners with the best man in the town." Said an old farmer who sat by, and had a bag with fifty pounds in it before him: "I am going home, friend, with this money, not above half a quarter of a mile out of the town, and if you can stay for your dinner a little till I come back, I'll bring thee a few eggs." Gray thanked him very kindly, and setting the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

frying-pan aside for the present, no sooner had the old farmer gone away, but he, making some excuse to go into the yard, met him backwards over the fields, and pulling out a couple of pistols quoth he to the farmer: "Stand, sir." The farmer replied: "Why, how then can I fetch you eggs for your horseshoe and bacon?" Said Gray: "Deliver me that bag under your arm, and I can buy myself eggs without being beholden to anybody." The farmer made a great many words about his money, but Gray offering to shoot him through the head, he not only parted with it without any further denial, but also suffered himself to be tied hand and foot.

Gray, having obtained this booty, soon laid out twelve pounds of it for a horse and a couple of guineas for two pairs of pocket-pistols; and being now (as he thought) qualified for a true-bred highwayman, his next attempt was upon a Scots pedlar, near Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, taking from whom his whole pack, valued at about sixty pounds, and a hue-and-cry being expeditiously sent after him, he was apprehended and committed to Gloucester Jail, from whence he made his escape in a short time, by setting it on fire, and thereby smothering three of his fellow-prisoners to death.

One day, drinking at Pancras, and espying a coach and six horses coming from Highgate, he presently mounted, and meeting it in a narrow by-lane attacked the gentleman who was in it, from whom he took forty-eight guineas, and then robbed the coachman, postilion and two footmen of about fifty shillings. Not far from the same place he assaulted a Justice of the Peace coming from Hampstead, and taking from him a silver watch, and about sixteen shillings, he bade him observe what oaths he had sworn (which, to be sure, were not a few), to the end his Worship might make him pay for them in case he should ever be brought before him for any misdemeanour.

He then committed several robberies in company with Edmund Eames and William Bigs, particularly on the 2nd of January, 1713, when they stopped a coach coming

NED BONNET

from Hampstead and took from the passengers who were in it about one pound, eight shillings. But at last he was apprehended for assaulting and robbing one Mrs Baxter, as she was coming from Hampstead towards London in a coach, which he stopped near the halfway house and took from her three shillings; also for robbing one Mrs Wilson of some money as she was riding to Hampstead; and for robbing one Mr Samuel Harding of nine shillings near the halfway house to Hampstead.

For these facts he was committed to Newgate, where his behaviour was very abominable and wicked all the while he was under confinement; and though sentence of death was passed on him, yet was he so hardened in his sin that he said to the ordinary, because he refused to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to him, he would certainly kill him if ever he durst venture to come to pray with him in the cart at Tyburn, where he was executed on Wednesday, the 10th of March, 1713, aged above fifty years.

NED BONNET

Took to the Highway because he was ruined by a Fire.

Executed at Cambridge Castle in March, 1713

EDWARD BONNET was born of very good and reputable parents in the Isle of Ely, in Cambridge-shire, who bestowed some small education upon him, as reading, writing and casting accounts. He set up as a grocer in the country, being at one time worth above six hundred pounds. He was ruined by a fire, which burned all his goods and house to the ground; and not being in a condition to retrieve his loss he came up to London, to avoid the importunate duns of creditors, where, lighting into a gang of highwaymen, he took to their courses, to raise himself, if possible, once more. Having been upon several exploits, wherein he was successful, the sweet profit of his enterprises made him so in love with robbing on the highway that he devoted himself wholly to it, and

NEWGATE CALENDAR

committed above three hundred robberies, particularly in Cambridgeshire, insomuch that he was much dreaded by the people in that country.

One time Ned Bonnet, in a rencounter on the road, met with the misfortune of having his horse shot under him; whereupon he was obliged to follow his trade on foot till he could get another. But it was not long before he took a good gelding out of the grounds of a man—who since kept the Red Lion Inn in Hounslow—upon which, riding straight into Cambridgeshire, a gentleman one day overtook him on the road who was like to have been robbed. Hearing Ned Bonnet to be tuning something of a psalm, he thereupon took him to be a godly man, and desired his company to such a place, to which he said he was also going (for a highwayman is never out of his way, though he is going against his will to the gallows). But at length, Ned, coming to a place convenient for this purpose, obliged the gentleman to stand and deliver his money; which being above eighty guineas, he had the conscience to give him half-a-crown to bear his charges till he had credit to recruit himself again. This gentleman ever after could not endure the tune of a psalm, and had as great an aversion against Sternhold, Hopkins, Tate and Brady as the devil has to holy water.

At length one Zachary Clare, whose father kept a baker's shop at Hackney, being apprehended for robbing on the highway and committed to Cambridge Jail, to save his own bacon made himself an evidence against Ned Bonnet, who, being secured at his lodging in Old Street, was sent to Newgate, and remaining till the assizes held at Cambridge, before Mr Baron Lovet, was carried down thither, and executed before the castle, on Saturday, the 28th of March, 1713, to the general joy and satisfaction of all the people in that country.

DICK ADAMS

*Once pretended to be the Bishop of London's Nephew
in order to escape from a Man he had robbed.*

Executed at Tyburn, 1713

unhappy person, Richard Adams, was born of a very good and reputable parents in Gloucestershire, who bestowed some small matter of education upon him, as reading, writing and casting of accounts. Coming up to London, he got into the service of a great duchess at St James's, in which he continued about two years, when for some misdemeanour quitting his place, he contrived to live by his wits.

Having a general key which opened the lodgings in St James's Palace, he went one day to a certain mercer's on Ludgate Hill and desired him to send, with all speed, a parcel of the richest brocades and satins, and other silks, he had in his shop, for his duchess to make choice of some for an extraordinary occasion. The mercer, knowing him to have come often upon such a like errand before, presently sent away several pieces by his man and a porter, and being come to St James's, Dick Adams brought them up to a door of some of the Royal lodgings, where he ordered them to wait while he, seemingly, went to acquaint his duchess of their being without. Coming out again, some short time after, quoth he: "Let's see the pieces presently, for my duchess is just now at leisure to look on them." So, the mercer's man giving him the whole bundle, he conveyed it away backwards, and went clear off through St James's Park. The mercer's man and the porter, having waited two or three hours and received no answer about their goods, began to make a strict inquiry after them; and finding they were tricked, were forced to go home much lighter than they went out.

About a month after, Dick Adams, having been drinking somewhat hard in the city, and forgetting the prank he had

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Mr Adams's Bill, 20th of April, 1711

	£	s.	d.
For a piece of green flowered brocade, containing 23 yards, at £1, 9s. per yard . . .	33	7	0
For a piece of white striped damask, containing 20 yards, at 14s. per yard . . .	18	4	0
For a piece of cloth-of-gold tissue, containing 18 yards, at £4, 15s. per yard . . .	85	10	0
For a piece of black watered tabby, containing 29 yards, at 4s. 8d. per yard . . .	6	15	4
For a piece of blue satin, containing 21 yards, at 16s. per yard . . .	16	16	0
For a piece of crimson velvet, containing 17 yards, at £1, 18s. per yard . . .	32	6	0
For a piece of yellow silk, containing 25 yards, at 8s. per yard . . .	10	0	0
17th of May. Lent your lordship's nephew . . .	1	1	6
Sum total	<u>£203</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>10</u>

His lordship, staring upon this large bill, quoth: "What is the meaning of all this? The gentleman last night might very well say your conscience could not be at rest; and I wonder how it should when you bring a bill to me which I know nothing of." Said the mercer then, bowing and scraping: "Your lordship last night was pleased to say that you would satisfy me to-day." "Yes," replied his lordship, "and so I would, as to what the gentleman told me, who said that you, being much troubled about some points of religion, desired to be resolved therein; and in order thereto, I appointed you to come to me to-day." "Truly," said the mercer again, "your lordship's nephew told me otherwise, for he said you would pay me this bill off, which goods, upon my word, he had of me, and in a very clandestine manner, if I was to tell your lordship all; but only in respect of your honour I would not disgrace your nephew." Quoth his lordship: "My nephew! He is none of my nephew. I never, to my knowledge, saw the gentleman

DICK ADAMS

in my life before." Thus when they came to unriddle the matter on both sides they could not forbear laughing, the Bishop at his nephew, and the mercer for lending a man who had once cheated him a guinea to cheat him again.

After this Dick Adams got into the Life Guards, but his extravagance not permitting him to live on his pay, he went on the highway. One day he and some of his accomplices, meeting with a gentleman on the road, took from him a gold watch, and a purse in which were one hundred and eight guineas. But Adams, not contented with this booty, and seeing that the gentleman whom they robbed had a very fine coat on, rode a little way back again, and saying to him, "Sir, you have a very good coat on, I must make bold to change with you," he stripped him of it and put on his. As the gentleman was riding along after he was robbed, hearing something jingle in the pocket of the coat which Adams had put on him, felt therein, and, to his great joy, found his watch and guineas again, which Adams in the hurry and confusion had forgotten to put into the other coat pocket when he changed coats with the gentleman.

Dick Adams, going out the same day again with his comrades, stopped the Canterbury stage-coach on the road betwixt Rochester and Sittingbourne, in which were several gentlewomen ; and for the last mistake they had made they were very severe and boisterous upon these passengers. Thus having rifled all the gentlewomen to above the value of two hundred pounds in money and goods, they left them to proceed on their journey, with very sorrowful hearts for their sad mischance.

But at last, Dick robbing a man by himself, between London and Brainford, the person robbed met with a neighbour on the road, who closely pursued this highwayman. He made a running fight of it, shooting Tartar-like behind him ; but they at last apprehended him, and carried him before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate. Though he was very wicked before his affliction fell upon him, yet whilst he lay under condemnation he was very devout. He was executed at Tyburn, in March, 1713.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

NED WICKS

*Highway Robber, executed at Warwick Jail in 1713
for Robbery*

EDWARD WICKS was born of very good parents, who kept an inn at Coventry, and bestowed on him so much education in reading, writing and casting accounts as qualified him to be a clerk for extraordinary business. He was an exciseman for about fourteen months; but not thinking that a post sufficient enough to cheat her Majesty's subjects, he was resolved to impose upon them more, by taking all they had on the highway. Being well equipped for such enterprises, he travelled the roads to seek his fortune, and had the good luck to commit two robberies without any discovery. But the third time, being apprehended for a robbery committed not far from Croydon, in Surrey, he was sent to the Marshalsea, in Southwark.

However, Wicks was not long under confinement before he obtained his liberty, by his friends making up the business with his adversary, to whom sixty guineas were given for taking from him but thirty shillings. Then, running Jehu-like to his destruction as fast as he could, he kept company with one Joe Johnson, *alias* Sanders; with whom going once on the road, they met, between Hounslow and Colebrook, with a stage-coach, having four gentlemen in it, who, seeing them come pretty near the coach, and perceiving they had masks on, were apprehensive of their intention of robbing them; and upon that, to be beforehand with them, one of them shot Joe Johnson with a brass piece, or blunderbuss, and lodged seven or eight large shot in his body. Wicks now rode clear off, without any hurt, whilst his comrade was apprehended, and, on suspicion, sent to Newgate, where he was charged by one Mr Woolly with robbing him of a silver watch and some money on the highway; for which he was hanged at Tyburn, on Wednesday, the 17th of February, 1705, aged twenty-two years.

Another time, Wicks meeting with the late Lord M——

NED WICKS

on the road betwixt Windsor and Colebrook, attended only with a groom and one footman, he commanded his lordship to stand and deliver, for he was in great want of money, and money he would have before they parted. His honour, pretending to have a great deal of courage, swore he should fight for it then. Wicks very readily accepted the proposal, and prepared his pistols for an engagement. His lordship, seeing his resolution, began to hesitate; which his antagonist perceiving, he began to swagger, saying: "All the world knows me to be a man; and though your lordship was concerned in the cowardly murdering of M——d, the player, and Captain C——t, yet I'm not to be frightened at that; therefore down with your gold, or else expect no quarter."

His lordship thus meeting with his match, it put him into such a passionate fit of swearing that Wicks, not willing to be outdone in any wickedness, said: "My lord, I perceive you swear perfectly well extempore. Come, I'll give your honour a fair chance for your money, and that is, he that swears best of us two shall keep his own and his that loseth." His lordship agreed to that bargain, and threw down a purse of fifty guineas, which Wicks matched with a like sum. After a quarter of an hour's swearing most prodigiously on both sides, it was left to my lord's groom to decide the matter; who said: "Why, indeed, your honour swears as well as ever I heard a person of quality in my life; but to give the strange gentleman his due, he has won the wager, if it was for a thousand pounds." Whereupon Wicks took up the gold, gave the groom a guinea, and rode about his business.

But not long after this, Wicks, being apprehended in London for a robbery done in Warwickshire, was committed to Newgate; from whence attempting to break out, he was quickly removed to Warwick Jail, where, being tried the next July, he was condemned to be hanged. His parents made great intercession for this their only child, but in vain, for he was executed on Saturday, the 29th of August, 1713, aged twenty-nine years.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

JACK SHRIMPTON

*Convicted for Murder and Highway Robberies. Executed
at St Michael's Hill in September, 1713*

JOHN SHRIMPTON was born of good and reputable parents living at Penns, near High Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, who, bestowing so much education upon him as might qualify him for a tradesman, put him out an apprentice, when he was between fifteen and sixteen years of age, to a soap-boiler in Little Britain, in London; but not serving out his apprenticeship there, he was turned over to another soap-boiler in Ratcliff Highway.

When he was out of his time he went into the army, where he was some time in the troop of horse commanded by Major-General Wood; but, not finding such preferment as he expected by being a soldier, he came into England and took to the highway. He did always the most damage betwixt London and Oxford, insomuch that scarce a coach or horseman could pass him without being robbed.

Some time after committing one robbery, Mr Shrimpton, being in London, accidentally lit into the company of the common hangman, where he was taking a glass of wine; and coming to the knowledge of his occupation he asked him this question: "What is the reason, when you perform your office, that you put the knot just under the ear? For, in my opinion, was you to fix it in the nape of the neck it would be more easy to the sufferer." The hangman replied: "If one Christian may believe another, I have hanged a great many in my time, but upon my word, sir, I never had any complaint as yet. However, if it should be your good luck to make use of me, I shall, to oblige you, be so civil as to hang you after your own way." But Shrimpton, not approving of the hangman's civility, told him that he desired none of his favours, because they generally proved of a very dangerous consequence.

Another time, Jack Shrimpton, who also called himself

JACK SHRIMPTON

Parker, meeting a couple of bailiffs beyond Wycombe carrying a poor farmer to jail, desired to know what the debt might be ; and being told six pounds odd money, he requested them to go with him to the next ale-house and he would pay it. They went along with him, where, taking a bond of the farmer, whom he knew very well, he paid the bailiffs their prisoner's debts and fees, and then parted. But Jack Shrimpton, waylaying the bailiffs, had no more mercy on them than they had on the farmer, for he took away what money he paid them, and about forty shillings besides ; after which he rode back again to the farmer and, regaling him with a treat of a guinea, cancelled his bond, and then went in pursuit of new adventures.

A little while after, Shrimpton, travelling on the road, met with a poor miller who was going to turn highwayman himself. Thus roving along, and meeting (as above said) with Shrimpton, he held up an oaken plant, for he had no other arms, and bade him stand, thinking that word was sufficient to scare any man out of his money. Shrimpton, perceiving the simplicity of the fellow, fired a pistol at him, which (though he purposely missed him) put our new robber into such an agony that he surrendered himself to Shrimpton's mercy ; who presently said : " Surely, friend, thou art but a young highwayman, or else you would have knocked me down first and bade me stand afterwards." The poor miller told him his misfortunes ; on which Shrimpton took some compassion, and quoth he : " I am a highwayman myself, and am now waiting on this road for a certain neighbour of yours, who I expect will come this way by and by with six-score pounds ; therefore if you will be assisting in the robbery of him, you shall have half the booty." The miller was very thankful for this kind offer, and resolved to stand by him to the very utmost. Then Shrimpton, having told him again that it was not long since he had robbed one of his neighbours of one hundred and fifty pounds, further said : " Honest friend, whilst I ride this way, you go that way, and if you should meet him whom I have told you of, be sure to knock him down and take all he has from him, without

NEWGATE CALENDAR

telling him why or wherefore; and in case I should meet him, I'll serve him with the same sauce."

They both separated, and went in search of their prey, till at last, upon the joining of two roads, they met together again. Shrimpton, wondering why the person he wanted did not yet come, ordered the miller to follow him still, saying: "Without doubt we shall catch the old cuff anon." But as he was thus encouraging his new companion, who was just at his horse's heels, he took up his stick and gave Shrimpton such a smart blow betwixt neck and shoulders that he felled him to the ground; being then able to deal with him, he robbed him of about fourscore guineas, and bade him go quietly about his business, or otherwise he would have him hanged, according to his own confession, for lately robbing his neighbour. Thus the biter was bitten; but Shrimpton swore he would never more take upon him to teach strangers how to rob on the highway.

This notorious malefactor pursued his wicked courses a long while, till at last, being in Bristol, where he resided for some months, he was drinking one night very late at a bawdy-house in St James's Churchyard, when a watchman, going his rounds, and hearing a great noise of swearing and cursing in the house, compelled Shrimpton to go along with him to the watch-house. As they were going together through Wine Street he shot the watchman through the body and flung his pistol away, that it might not be found; but some men, happening to go by at the same time, apprehended Shrimpton, and the watchman dying on the spot, they secured him till morning, when, carrying him before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate, in Bristol, where he behaved himself very audaciously.

At length, being brought to a trial, he was convicted not only for wilful murder but also for five robberies on the highway. When he came to the place of execution at St Michael's Hill he was turned off without showing any signs of repentance, on Friday, the 4th of September, 1713.

WILL LOWTHER

*Executed on Clerkenwell Green for the Murder of
Edward Perry, December, 1713*

THI offender was born at Whitehaven, in Cumberland, and from his youth brought up at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in Northumberland. He had used the sea for almost ten years, and once was (for a little while) master of a small collier, given him by his father, trading between Newcastle and London, where, becoming acquainted with ill company, and losing his little vessel one night at play, he soon learned the most enormous vices of the town, and became as bad as his companions, in going very frequently upon the water-pad, or robbing ships as they lay at anchor in the River Thames.

Once Lowther, meeting a great virtuoso belonging to the Royal Society taking a serious walk in the fields near Paddington, to meditate on the stupendous works of nature, made bold to make him stand till he took twenty-eight guineas from him.

Not long after this Lowther met with a sad mischance, for going one day to an ale-house in Covent Garden, at Christmas time, where a box was put up by the servants in one of the back rooms in which he was drinking for customers to put what they pleased into it, he, being by himself, heated the poker red-hot, and went to unsolder the box as fast as he could, which was filled with gunpowder, by reason two or three boxes had been so opened before, and the money taken out. As soon as the heat of the poker came to the powder, up flew the box, out fell the money, and the noise thereof giving a loud report, the servants went presently into the room, where they found Lowther frightened almost out of his wits, with his wig blazing about his ears, his neckcloth all on fire, and his face most sadly burned. However, not pitying his mortified condition, they were for carrying him before a magistrate, but making the matter up, by paying the servants three pounds ten shillings, he

NEWGATE CALENDAR

was discharged of getting box-money off people without asking them for it, and went about his business.

Lowther, having once stolen a black pudding in Clare Market and clapped it into his bosom, stepped, as he was going along, into Daniel Burge's meeting-house, where he placed himself opposite to that reverend don, who was very piously delivering a lecture to his zealous congregation, and who in the midst of his eloquent discourse, looking wistly towards Lowther, said: "Thou man! fling that black sin out of thy bosom." Lowther having a guilty conscience, and really thinking the teacher had spoken to him, flung it at his head, saying: "And be poxed to you. I had but one black pudding, and you are so unconscionable as to desire it of me." Which transaction put the auditors into a sort of a surprise, as well as the doctor.

Another time Lowther, having stolen a watch, was committed to Newgate, where compounding the felony, he then escaped the severity of the law and procured his liberty. But Lowther not performing his agreement, his adversary sent him to one of the compters, where he was removed by a habeas to Newgate. Here he first became acquainted with Dick Keele, with whom, after they had got their liberty, he went a-thieving, till being sent to Clerkenwell Bridewell, they there bred a riot, in which Edward Perry, a servant to Mr Boreman, the keeper, was killed. For this fact both these malefactors received sentence of death, and were executed together on Wednesday, the 23rd of December, 1713, Lowther being twenty-three years of age.

RODERICK AUDREY

*With the Assistance of a Sparrow he committed many
Robberies, and was executed at Tyburn in 1714
at the Age of Sixteen*

THIS malefactor was so dexterous in thieving that he seemed to have come an acute villain into the world. He could scarcely speak plain when he began to practise the taking of what was not his own; and so

RODERICK AUDREY

improved himself in the art and mystery of thieving that he was hanged a little after he had turned his teens.

He would go to Chelsea, or Hampstead, or Bow, or Lambeth—east, west, north or south—for he was never out of his road, and, carrying a sparrow along with him, would play about a house where he saw a sideboard of plate in the parlour, or any other movable, teaching the bird to climb the ladder or fly to hat. If the sashes were open, or the street door, he would throw in his sparrow, then, following to catch it again, would steal away the plate, and leave the sparrow to answer for his master's conduct. But if he was seen by anybody in the house before he had finished his work, it was a very plausible pretence that his design was no other than running after his bird, as honest children will do in such cases.

Whenever his money was gone he went upon fresh exploits, till all the country towns and villages within ten miles of London were sensible that the boy who played with the sparrow was a thief. Yet though he was often sent to New Prison and the Gatehouse at Westminster, the justices took so much pity on his tender years as not to commit him to Newgate, for fear of his being spoiled, though he was already spoiled to their hands. This favour still encouraged Roderick in his villainy, till at last he was committed to Newgate, whither he went twenty times afterwards, and being tried upon a matter of petty larceny, for which the jury found him guilty of tenpence, he flung from the bar a shilling to the judge, desiring his Lordship to give him twopence for his change; which piece of impudence caused him to be so well flogged that he never valued whipping at the cart's tail ever after.

As he was one day, about dinner-time, walking with another through Soho Square, espying a great parcel of plate in a remote room of a person of quality's house, his mouth so watered at the glittering sight that he could not pass by it with a safe conscience; and holding counsel with his comrade about it, he thought it impracticable to attempt the taking of it. However, young Audrey would

NEWGATE CALENDAR

not acquiesce to his opinion : have it he would. So desiring his faint-hearted comrade, who wore a green apron, to lend it him, he presently steps to an oil shop, buys two or three balls of whiting, returns to the house he was resolved to attack, and, getting upon the rails, falls to cleaning the windows with the whiting and a foul handkerchief with as good an assurance as if he had been the butler, or some other servant belonging to the family. He was mighty handy about his work, lifting the sashes up and down, and going in and out to clean them without any suspicion of people going by, who could have no mistrust of his not dwelling there ; till at last he cleaned the sideboard of all the plate, which he brought away in his apron, to the value of eighty pounds.

After stealing a box, and plate, and money out of a house in Red Lion Square, he was taken in the fact, and committed to Newgate ; and when brought on his trial for the same was burned in the hand, and ordered to hard labour for two years in Bridewell in Clerkenwell. Here he had not been above six months of his time before Richard Keele, William Lowther and Charles Houghton were also committed for two years, and being shown by young Audrey where the keeper's arms were, the three abovesaid persons attempted to break into the room where they lay, but were prevented in their design. Nevertheless they made a riot, in which Charles Houghton was killed on the spot, Keele lost one of his eyes, and Lowther was desperately wounded in the back. On the keeper's side, one Perry, his turnkey, and sutler to the prison, was stabbed through the heart with a penknife. Whilst this engagement lasted, young Audrey broke into the deceased turnkey's chamber, from whence he stole twenty pounds, and then found a way to break out of Bridewell, making way also for eighteen or twenty more, who followed their leader ; but were as soon retaken, except him, who skulked about four or five months before he was apprehended, and that upon acting a fresh piece of villainy.

Being now committed to Newgate for his last time, his thoughts were employed how to break out there too, using

MACCARTNEY

some few stratagems, but he was unsuccessful in all his attempts.

When he came before the bench again they knew him very well by his impudence, of which he had a good stock ; and being found guilty of stealing, after his late breaking out of Bridewell, a great quantity of plate, sentence of death was passed on him. He owned the sentence passed upon him was just, and confessed above a hundred robberies in particular that he had committed, besides acknowledging his commission of as many more, which he could not call to mind where. What he stole was (as above said) plate and money, to the value of two thousand pounds at times ; but so profuse had he been with it that he had scarce money enough to buy a coffin.

At last the fatal day came, in the year 1714, when he was to go from hence and be no more seen. Being conveyed in a cart, unpitied by all honest people, to Tyburn, he seemed very loath to die ; but no reprieve coming, which he expected to the last, in consideration of his youth, he departed to the tune of a penitential psalm, being no more than sixteen years of age. We must needs say he went very decently to the gallows, being in a white waistcoat, clean napkin, white gloves, and having an orange in one hand.

MACCARTNEY

*Hanged at Gloucester Jail in April, 1714, for the
Murder of one Mr Beachere*

MACCARTNEY being left to the wide world, and knowing not what course to take for a livelihood, being no scholar, nor brought up to any trade, turned thief at once, being so light-fingered that anything was his own which lay within his reach. He was a notable house-breaker, and had done many exploits that way ; but his greatest was in breaking open the house of Sir Thomas Rochford, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, in the kingdom of Ireland, whom he and his comrades bound,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

with his lady, back to back, like a spread eagle, and all the men and women servants in the house after the same manner, without either shirt or smock upon them; then breaking open all trunks, cabinets, escritaires and chests of drawers, they took what plate and money they could find, to the value of fourteen hundred pounds.

After committing this notorious robbery, his country being too hot to hold him, he fled into Scotland, where, breaking open a stable belonging to Sir James Steward, then her Majesty's advocate for that kingdom, and stealing thence a horse and saddle, he came into England and turned highwayman. Being pretty lucky in his roguery, he always maintained himself in clothes; so that the handsome appearance which he made in his habit, with his fawning, cringing and flattering way, had brought him to be acquainted with several creditable gentlemen, to whom he pretended he had a very good estate in Ireland.

One day Maccartney, with another rogue as good as himself, meeting in the Strand one Mr Vaughan, a Welsh gentleman, having about four hundred pounds per annum in Pembrokeshire, invited him to drink a pint of wine; and, going together to a tavern, whilst they were regaling themselves over a glass of claret, quoth Maccartney to his comrade: "I vow this is a fine day; we'll e'en ride both of us out this afternoon." Said Mr Vaughan (not in the least mistrusting they were highwaymen): "If I had a horse I would ride out with you too, gentlemen." Quoth Maccartney: "I'll help you to a horse, sir." And being as good as his word, they all three rode towards Romford, beyond which place, about a mile, meeting a coach full of passengers, Maccartney and his comrade set upon it.

Whilst they were robbing them, quoth the Welsh gentleman to himself: "I'll not stand idle; I'll e'en be doing something too." So perceiving another coach at a little distance behind that which the others had attacked, and in which was only one gentleman, with his footman behind, he made up to it, and commanding the coachman to stop,

WILL OGDEN AND TOM REYNOLDS

he robbed the gentleman of five guineas in gold and forty shillings in silver, and rode off.

Shortly after, going to Bristol, one Mr Beachere of Wiltshire also went down to that city in order to go to Ireland, where he unhappily fell into company with Maccartney, who was likewise going to that kingdom. In the morning, after their short acquaintance overnight, Maccartney calling up the aforesaid Beachere to go down to the Pill to embark, when he was on Durham Down, a mile without the city, this Irish rogue knocked him down and with a razor cut his throat from ear to ear, and then passed over into Wales, and designed for Holyhead. But messengers being sent into Wales to inquire at all the ports, heard of, pursued and took him in Brecknockshire, with Beachere's clothes and bloody shirt. He was then committed to Gloucester Jail; and being convicted for this murder and robbery, he was there executed, on Wednesday, 7th of April, 1714, aged twenty-three years, and was afterwards hanged in chains on Durham Down.

WILL OGDEN AND TOM REYNOLDS

Housebreakers and Highwaymen. Executed at Kingston-upon-Thames in April, 1714

THE first of these villains was born in Walnut-Tree Alley, in Tooley Street, in Southwark, being a waterman by his calling; and the other was born in Cross-Key Alley, in Barnaby Street, being apprentice to a dung-bargeman living between Vauxhall and the Nine Elms; but running away from his master before he had served his time, and taking ill courses with Ogden, they first robbed several ships, hoys and other vessels below bridge, for above two years, when, being very like to have been once apprehended for this sort of theft, they left it off and took to housebreaking.

Several houses they had broken open and robbed in and about the borough of Southwark. But at last being

NEWGATE CALENDAR

apprehended for breaking open a watchmaker's shop in the City of London, and stealing from thence twenty-six watches, in company with another rogue who made himself an evidence against them, they were committed to Newgate and condemned; however they both had the good fortune to be reprieved, and in August, 1713, pleaded her Majesty's most gracious pardon, after which they obtained their liberty.

Nevertheless, these hardened rogues, not making good use of that mercy which they had received, turned foot-pads, and one of them—namely, Ogden—meeting one night, when the moon was up, with a parson who lived at Peckham, pretending to be a seaman out of all business and in great distress, humbly begged an alms of him; whereupon the parson, taking compassion on the dismal story which he told him of his extreme poverty, gave him sixpence, and so they parted. The parson had not gone above the length of a field before Ogden met him again going over a stile, and begging his charity again, quoth the gentleman: "You are the most impudent beggar that ever I have met with." Ogden then telling him that he was in very great want, and that the sixpence which he gave him would not relieve his pressing necessities, he gave him half-a-crown; whereupon Ogden said: "These are very sad times, for there's horrid robbing abroad; therefore if you have any money about you, you may as well let me have it as another, who perhaps may abuse you and, binding you hand and foot, make you lie in the cold all night; but if you'll give me your money, I'll take care of you, and conduct you very safe home."

The parson then gave him all his money, which was about forty shillings. Quoth Ogden: "I see you have a watch, sir; you may as well let me have that too." The parson gave him that also. As they were trudging along, out came two or three fellows upon them; but on Ogden crying, "The moon shines bright," they let them pass quietly; and shortly after two or three other fellows came suddenly on, to whom also Ogden cried, "The moon shines bright,"

WILL OGDEN AND TOM REYNOLDS

and they also permitted them to pass by. At last Ogden brought the parson to his door, where the parson invited him to walk in, with a promise that he would not hurt a hair of his head on any account; but Ogden refusing the parson's proffer, he called for a bottle of wine, and drank to Ogden, to whom he gave the bottle and glass to help himself. But he ran away with them, saying he would carry the wine to those who should certainly drink his health.

Another time Ogden and Reynolds, in company with one John Bradshaw—who was grandson of that infamous villain, Serjeant Bradshaw, who passed sentence on King Charles I. to be beheaded—were watching for a prey in a wood near Shooter's Hill, in Kent, when one Cecilia Fowley, a servant-wench, just come out of service, happened to be passing by with a box on her head. Jack Bradshaw went up to her by himself, being, as he thought, sufficient enough to deal with her, and took her box from her, in which were her clothes and fifteen shillings in money, which she had received for a quarter's wages. Whilst he was rifling it, after he had broken it open, a hammer being therein, she took it up and struck him on the left temple with it, the blow felling him to the ground, on his back. She then seconded it with the claw of the hammer, by striking it into his windpipe, of which wound the rogue instantly died. Then a gentleman carried the maid before a magistrate, where he was bound for her appearance at the assizes held at Rochester in March, 1714, when she came there to take her trial, and was acquitted.

Ogden and Reynolds, pursuing their wicked courses without any fear of the laws either of God or man, were at last apprehended for robbing one Simon Hasey and one John Boyout, committed to the Marshalsea Prison, in Southwark, and hanged, the first aged twenty-five years, the other twenty-two, at Kingston-upon-Thames, on Saturday, the 23rd of April, 1714.

Whilst they were under sentence of death they attempted to break out of the stock-house, in which they were confined at Kingston; and as they were riding to the place of

NEWGATE CALENDAR

execution, Ogden flung a handful of money out of the cart to the people, saying: "Gentlemen, here is poor Will's farewell." And when he was being turned off he gave two extraordinary jerks with his legs, which was much admired by all the spectators.

WILLIAM JOHNSON AND JANE HOUSDEN

*Executed in September, 1714, for the Murder of a
Turnkey in the Court at the Old Bailey*

WILLIAM JOHNSON was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time as a butcher, and removing to London he opened a shop in Newport Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he pursued a variety of speculations, until at length he sailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison. Having saved some money at this place, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon. Previously to this he had been acquainted with Jane Housden, his fellow in crime, who had been tried and convicted of coining but had obtained a pardon, but who was again in custody for a similar offence. On the day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old Bailey, Johnson called to see her; but Mr Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not speak to her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the Court and all the persons attending to hear the trials, Mrs Housden at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this singular murder. The event had no sooner happened than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and, there being many witnesses to the deed, they were convicted, and received sentence of



London
Ded. 1841.

JOHNSON receiving **M^r SPURLING** from *Thornkey*

Wingate, where John Johnson was sent to trial

during the rebellion, &c.

WILL CHANCE

death. From this time to that of their execution, which took place on 19th of September, 1714, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; and notwithstanding the publicity of their offence, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives. Nor did they show any signs of compunction for their former sins. After hanging the usual time, Johnson was hanged in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

WILL CHANCE

Robbed his Uncle by Forgery, and then turned Footpad.

Was executed at Tyburn in April, 1715

WILLIAM CHANCE was born of mean parents, near Colchester, in Essex, by whom he had not the least learning at all bestowed upon him, though he was from his very infancy a child who showed a promising genius.

When he came to be about sixteen years of age he was put out apprentice by the parish to a weaver, where he was so unlucky that at the end of three years his master gave him his indentures and sent him packing; when, to support himself, he took to thieving.

Surprising Sir Jonathan Thornicroft, Bart., he unawares knocked him off his horse and rifled him of a diamond ring worth one hundred and twenty pounds, a gold watch worth fifty pounds, and two hundred and ninety guineas. A great noise of this robbery being made all over the country, with the promise of a reward of one hundred pounds for any who could discover this bold robber, Will fled to a rich uncle's at Thetford, to lie there incognito till this hubbub was all over. His uncle was a grazier, who caressed and received him with all the tokens of respect that could possibly be shown a near relation. While he was here he bargained with his uncle for twenty oxen, signing an obligation for the money, which he promised to pay within a month or

NEWGATE CALENDAR

two; then taking leave of his uncle, he hired one to drive the oxen to Norwich. After two or three months had expired, the old gentleman, not hearing from him, turned to his writings, where he found the nest, but the birds flown; for Will had tempered the ink with saltpetre and other corrosive ingredients which eat through the paper. This startled the old man so, that he suddenly took pen in hand and wrote a very severe letter to his kinsman, threatening him with a course of law.

He pretended to be greatly concerned at the matter, and summoned his uncle to appear at the assizes at Norwich, having in the meantime suborned a false witness or two to give evidence to a forged paper wherein his uncle was found to confess himself indebted to his father in the sum of six hundred pounds, payable, in case of his decease, to this his unlucky son. The usual hand and mark of the uncle were artificially counterfeited with a different ink from the body of the obligation, both tempered with soot to make them seem of such standing as the date would require. Besides this, he had also forged a certain discharge, the tenor whereof was that he had received twenty oxen for two hundred pounds of the said six hundred.

This acquittance was cunningly sealed up and sent to a countryman near Colchester, whom he had also hired to be an assistant; and he delivered it to the uncle in the presence of the Court. Will, as soon as he saw him begin to open it, prayed the Court to examine his papers, which they did, and the discharge made so much for him that judgment was passed in his favour, and the defendant constrained not only to renounce his pretence but also condemned to pay the remainder of the sum that was mentioned in the obligation, which was four hundred pounds.

At last, having exhausted all his ill-gotten money, Will betook himself to housebreaking, for which he had been twice committed to Newgate and tried at the Old Bailey, but had the good luck to escape hanging because the witnesses were defective in their evidence. This success in his roguery did so harden him that there was scarce a jail throughout

ZACHARY CLARE

London but what he was more than once a tenant in. He was once condemned at Hertford Assizes as a footpad, but his time not being yet come he was reprieved, and after an imprisonment of two years and a half he pleaded his pardon granted by Queen Anne, and obtained his liberty once more. But not making good use of his freedom, and the Royal mercy he received, he pursued his old courses and went upon the footpad, till he and another, being apprehended for robbing a gentleman near Paddington of a silver-hilted sword and forty-two shillings in money, were committed to Newgate, where, his comrade making himself an evidence to secure his own neck, Will was convicted, and received sentence of death.

Whilst he was in the condemned hold he was at first very profligate, swearing, cursing, drinking, singing and dancing, to the great hindrance of the other condemned malefactors from their devotion. But when the death warrant was brought to the lodge of Newgate his countenance changed at the fatal news, and he began to employ the little time he was to live in serious meditation of his approaching end, which was on Wednesday, the 21st of April, 1715, when he was hanged at Tyburn, aged thirty-five years.

ZACHARY CLARE

Highwayman, who was captured after a Fight, and executed with James Lawrence in August, 1715, at Warwick Jail

ZACHARY CLARE was a baker's son, born at Hackney, and by his father bred up to his trade; but becoming acquainted with Ned Bonnet, who taught him the trade of robbing on the highway, they practised it together with good success for three or four years in the counties of Hertford and Cambridge, and became such a terror to the people of the Isle of Ely that they durst hardly stir out far from home, unless they were half-a-dozen or half-a-score in a body together. But at length, Clare, being apprehended while robbing one day by himself, to save his

NEWGATE CALENDAR

own neck made himself an evidence against Ned Bonnet, who, being apprehended, was committed to Newgate, from whence he was conveyed to Cambridge, and there hanged, as before related.

One would think that the untimely end of his companion would have reclaimed him, but instead of being reformed he withdrew himself again from under his father's tuition and took to his old courses, with a resolution of never leaving them off till he was hanged too. However, dreading a halter, he was resolved to rob by stratagem; and accordingly, one afternoon, riding over Bagshot Heath, he falls to blowing of a horn, just as if he had been a post, whereupon three or four gentlemen then on the road gave him the way, as is usual in such cases, and being not rightly acquainted with the place where they were they made what haste they could after him for a guide, promising to give him something for conducting them to such a town. Clare accepted their civility, and being now upon the middle of the aforesaid heath, where was a lone house upon the side of the road, pretending to be thirsty, he craved the favour of the gentlemen to bestow a little drink upon him, withal saying there was a cup of very good liquor. They acquiesced to his request and rode up to the house, where a couple of his companions were planted, ready mounted, who attacked the gentlemen with sword and pistol with such fury that after a short resistance they obliged them to pay their postman about two hundred and thirty pounds for safely conducting them into their clutches.

Shortly after this adventure, being through his extravagance destitute of a horse, pistols and accoutrements fitting for a gentleman thief, he put himself into the disguise of a porter, with an old frock on his back, leather breeches, a broad belt about his middle, a hiving hat on his head, a knot on his shoulders, a small cord (an emblem of what would be his fate) at his side, and a sham ticket hanging at his girdle; then, going up and down the streets to see how fortune might favour his designs, it was his good luck one evening to go through Lombard Street when a gentleman

ZACHARY CLARE

was sealing up a couple of hundred-pound bags. He took the advantage to walk by just as the aforesaid gentleman came to the door, where, calling for a porter, he plied him, and the money was delivered to him to carry, along with the gentleman, to one Squire Macklethwait's, living near Red Lion Square. But Zachary Clare, being tired of his burden, turned up St Martin's-le-Grand, and made the best of his way to lighten himself as soon as he could of his load.

Clare, being thus recruited, soon metamorphosed his porter's habit into that of a gentleman's; and from a man of carriage transformed himself into an absolute highwayman again. One of his consorts bought him a good horse in West Smithfield, whilst another bought pistols and other materials requisite for a person who lives by the words "Stand and deliver." Being thus equipped he bade London adieu for ever, for it was the last time he ever saw it. His progress now was towards the West of England, where he and his associates robbed the Welsh drovers and several wagons, besides coaches; insomuch that they were a dread and terror to all those parts which border upon Wales.

But staying there till the country was too hot for them they steered their course into Warwickshire, where they committed several robberies with very good success, till one day Zachary Clare, and only one more in company with him, going to give their horses a breathing upon Dunmore Heath, attacked Sir Humphrey Jennison and his lady in their coach, who had then above one thousand, one hundred pounds in the seat of it, and the knight, being unwilling to lose it, came out to give them battle. An engagement began betwixt the highwayman and Sir Humphrey, one of whose two footmen was wounded in the arm, and the other had his horse shot in the buttock. But still Sir Humphrey's courage was not quelled; he maintained the fight more vigorously with what pistols he had till the coachman, discharging a blunderbuss, shot Zachary's horse dead on the spot, and himself in the foot. His comrade seeing him dismounted, and wounded into the bargain, fled as fast as he could. Clare was now taken, and Sir

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Humphrey, mounting his footman's horse which was not wounded, pursued James Lawrence, the highwayman who had left Clare in the lurch, and took him. Then, tying them behind one another, they were brought into Warwick, and being examined before a magistrate, committed to jail.

Now being in close confinement, they made several attempts to break open the prison, and in order thereto they had file, chisels, ropes and *aqua fortis* to facilitate their escape. But being detected by one of their fellow-prisoners they were loaded with the heaviest irons the jail afforded, and were also stapled down to the floor; under which strict restraint they continued for above four months, when, the assizes coming on, they were both brought to a trial, having a great number of indictments exhibited against them, to the great surprise of the whole Court, who tried them upon no less than ten, of every one of which the jury found them guilty.

Being condemned, they were remanded back to jail again, and secured in a dark dungeon underground, where, instead of preparing for their latter end, they did nothing but sing, swear, play at cards and get drunk from morning till night.

They miserably ended their lives in August, 1715, the first of them aged thirty-two, and the other twenty-six.

JOHN HAMILTON, Esq.

*Tried in Scotland for Murder, and beheaded by the Maiden,
30th of June, 1716*

THIS offender was born in the country of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law; but the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission, but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars prevented their generous intention taking effect.

JOHN HAMILTON

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentlemen at Edinburgh lost considerable sums at gaming, and going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any further sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow to meet his companions at a public-house kept by Thomas Arkle. Having drunk and gamed for several successive days and nights, Hamilton's companions left him while he was asleep, leaving him to discharge the bill. Exceeding his ability, a quarrel ensued between him and Arkle, and while they contended, Arkle stripped Hamilton's sword from the scabbard. The latter immediately ran away, but finding he had no sword to his scabbard he instantly went back to the house, when, on Arkle calling him several scandalous names, he stabbed him so that he instantly expired.

The daughter of Arkle, being present, attempted to seize Hamilton, in doing which she tore off the skirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his sword, on his effecting a second escape. This daughter of Arkle was almost blind, but her keeping the sword and the skirt of the coat proved the means of bringing Hamilton to justice.

The murderer, having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ship, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents dying in the interval he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into custody on account of the murder.

On his trial he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed, to which he was instigated by the extreme ill-usage he had received from Arkle. The jury, not allowing the force of these arguments, found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be beheaded by the Maiden.

After Mr Hamilton received sentence of death his friends made great interest to procure a pardon; but their endeavours proved ineffectual, and he suffered death on the 30th of June, 1716.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

At the place of execution he owned that he had killed Arkle, but presumed to think he was justified on the principle of self-defence.

JAMES QUIN, Esq.

The Celebrated Tragedian, tried for Murder at the Old Bailey in 1717, and convicted of Manslaughter

JAMES QUIN was born in the parish of St Paul, Covent Garden, in the year 1693. His father was a gentleman of some estate, which he greatly embarrassed from a neglect of prudence; but he gave his son, out of the wreck of his fortune, an excellent education, which he finished at the University of Dublin.

From college young Quin was sent to London, in order to study law, and for that purpose a set of chambers in the Temple and a library were provided for him. Here he fell into that decay which has ever been fatal to many young men on their arrival into the great metropolis—dissipated company. Legal authorities were thrown aside and the *belles lettres* substituted. He was oftener seen at the theatres than in Westminster Hall. Thus did this thoughtless young man dissipate his time until the death of his father, which indeed happened not long after his arrival in London. He found his patrimony very small, and that he himself had greatly assisted in reducing it.

He had made an acquaintance with Booth, Wilkes and Ryan, the first performers of those days, and he determined on turning player. In the year 1717, when just twenty-four years of age, he was accepted by the managers of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane; but before he could prepare himself for the arduous task of an appearance before a British audience he was obliged to fly from England.

It appears that he formed an acquaintance with a woollen draper in the Strand, whose wife giving him encouragement, a criminal correspondence took place; and the guilty pair being, by the ill-treated husband, traced to a house of

JAMES QUIN

ill-fame, Quin drew his sword and wounded him in the thigh. The husband recovered, and commenced an action of crim. con., and another for assault, against Quin; who, to avoid the consequences of such serious proceedings, privately decamped, and went back to Ireland, where he remained until the natural death of the woollen draper.

We find, great as were his abilities, that he long remained at Drury Lane, to use the words of his biographer, "a mere scene-drudge—a faggot of the drama." In time he was entrusted with the part of Banquo, in Shakespeare's tragedy of *Macbeth*, and the Lieutenant of the Tower in *King Richard the Third*. In the absence of a principal performer, Mr Rich, manager of the Theatre Royal, Lincoln's Inn Fields, with great reluctance substituted Quin in the arduous character of Sir John Falstaff, in the comedy of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The audience, who proved better judges than the manager, received his whole performance with uncommon applause.

His fame as an actor now rapidly increased; and upon Booth's infirmities obliging him to quit the stage, Quin succeeded to many of his parts, and among the rest to that of Cato, a character which had been alone acted by his predecessor, in which he was most popular, from the first representation of that admirable tragedy. There perhaps never was a dramatic work that engaged the public interest more than *Cato*. The contending parties in politics, on several nights of the first season of its appearance, ranged themselves, as in the House of Commons, on each side of the theatre, alternately applauding the patriotic and loyal speeches with which it abounds.

Though Booth was gone, *Cato* was soon called for, and Quin prepared for this, his greatest ordeal. He requested that the bills of the performance might say that "the part of Cato would be attempted by Mr Quin," with which the manager complied. The audience, pleased with his diffidence, received him with great applause, which encouraged him to call forth his utmost exertions. When the body

NEWGATE CALENDAR

of Cato's dead son, who was slain in battle, was brought upon the stage, upon Quin's repeating the line,

“ Thanks to the gods, my boy has done his duty,”

the audience were so struck with surprise at his energy, feeling and manner, that, as it were with one accord, they exclaimed: “ Booth outdone! Booth outdone!” In delivering the celebrated soliloquy in the last act the audience (very unusual in tragedy) cried, “ Encore! encore!” without ceasing, until he repeated it, and the curtain fell under the greatest burst of applause.

After Quin had become the favourite of the town, in performing Cato, one Williams, an inferior actor, came to him on the stage, in the character of a Roman messenger, saying, “ Cæsar sends health to Cato,” but he unfortunately pronounced Cato “ Keeto ”; which so affronted Quin that, instead of giving the reply of the author, he said: “ Would he had sent a better messenger.” This so greatly incensed Williams that when the scene was concluded he followed Quin into the green-room and complained to him of the injury he had sustained in being made contemptible to the audience, and thereby hurt in his profession; concluding by demanding satisfaction. Quin, instead of either apologising for the affront or accepting the challenge, made himself merry with his passion—a treatment which increased it to a degree of frenzy; so that, watching under the piazza of Covent Garden, as Quin was returning to his lodgings he drew upon him, when the assailed, in defending himself, ran the unfortunate Williams through the body, which killed him upon the spot.

Quin immediately surrendered himself to the laws of his country, and under the circumstances here described, which were proved on his trial, we must agree with the jury, which found him guilty of manslaughter only.

THE MARQUIS DE PALEOTTI

*An Italian Nobleman, executed at Tyburn for the Murder
of his Servant, 17th of March, 1718*

THIS nobleman was the head of a family in Italy, and was born at Bologna. In the reign of Queen Anne he was a colonel in the Imperial army. Quitting the army at the Peace of Utrecht, he visited England to see his sister; and being fond of an extravagant course of life, and attached to gaming, he soon ran into debt for considerable sums. His sister paid his debts for some time, till she found it would be a burdensome and endless task; and she therefore declined all further interference. The habits of the Marquis, however, were in nowise changed, and one day, while walking in the street, he directed his servant, an Italian, to go and borrow some money. The servant, having met with frequent denials, declined going; on which the Marquis drew his sword and killed him on the spot.

He was instantly apprehended and committed to prison; and being tried at the next sessions was convicted on full evidence, and received sentence of death. But the Duke of Shrewsbury, his sister's husband, being dead, and the Duchess having little interest or acquaintance in England, it appears that no endeavours were used to save him from the punishment which awaited him, and he was executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1718.

JOHN PRICE, COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH

*A Rogue and Liar, who was not believed when he spoke the
Truth. He held the Office of Common Hangman, and
was himself hanged in Bunhill Fields in May,
1718, for murdering a Woman*

THIS criminal first drew his breath in the fog-end of the suburbs of London, and, like Mercury, became a thief as soon as ever he peeped out of the shell.

Fortune having reduced his miserable parents to such

NEWGATE CALENDAR

extremity that they could not bestow on this their son any education, it was his misfortune to improve himself in all manner of wickedness before he had turned seven. So prone was he to vice, that as soon as he could speak he would curse and swear with as great a passion and vileness as is frequently heard round any gaming-table. Moreover, to this unprofitable talent of profaneness he added that of lying.

When John Price was about eighteen years of age, a gentleman with whom he lived in the country turned him out of his service purely on account of his excessive lying ; when, going towards London, and robbing a market-woman of about eighteen shillings, near Brentwood, in Essex, he was taken by some travellers coming suddenly on him in the fact, and committed by a magistrate to Chelmsford Jail, and pleading guilty at the assizes he received sentence of death. But his late master, being then High Sheriff of the county of Essex, and taking compassion on his servant's misfortunes, did not permit his sentence to be put into force against him. The sheriff said he knew the fellow to be such an unaccountable liar that there was no believing one word he said ; so his pleading guilty to what was laid to his charge was, in his opinion, an eminent sign he ought to be believed innocent of the fact, and he would not be guilty of hanging an innocent man for the world.

Soon after this escape John Price made the best of his way to London, where he associated himself with a tribe of pickpockets and gipsies, with whom he ran up and down the country, frequenting all fairs and concourses of people, till he was caught diving into a pocket that was not his own, and committed to Newgate, in Bristol. Being there severely whipped for his fault, he went on board a merchant-ship, and afterwards served in two men-of-war ; but not forbearing to pilfer from the seamen, after having been whipped at a gun, pickled with brine, and keel-hauled, he was discharged. Coming ashore at Portsmouth, he got to beloved London again, where he would not hearken to any wholesome counsel, but resolved to break through



JACK KETCH ARRESTED
*and taken into Custody, when attending a
Malefactor to the place of Execution.*

JOHN PRICE, COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH

all virtuous sentiments, and wholly betake himself to all manner of wickedness. Entering himself into a gang of footpads, they one night divided themselves into three bands, and an attorney then falling into their hands near Hampstead, his money they demanded, with a thousand oaths and curses. According to their demand he gave them what money he had about him, which was eight guineas, rejoicing howsoever that he had now passed, as he thought, all danger, when lo! suddenly, as he came up to the halfway house betwixt that place and London, he was again surrounded with a second band of these rogues, who went to him and demanded whence he came and where he was going. He related his piteous adventure, and into what cruel hands he had fallen. "Cruel!" answered one of the gang. "How durst you use these terms! And who made you so bold as to talk to us with your hat on? Pray, sir, be pleased henceforward to learn more manners." Saying which, they snatched his hat and wig off his head, and took a diamond ring off his finger, in all to the value of fifteen pounds. What could our poor lawyer now do? To turn back again was to leap out of the frying-pan into the fire, wherefore he faintly went on, when scarcely had he got past Kentish Town but the third band, who lay as sentinels in this place, made up to him, bringing along with them a man who had not a rag of clothes on his back—not so much as a shirt—a dreadful thing, considering the time of the year, it being then in the depth of winter. "Sir," said Price (who was in this parley), "you'll do a charitable deed to let this poor wretch, whom we have just now stripped, have your upper coat, or rather both upper and under, for you see he is almost dead with cold." The lawyer would willingly have pleaded that charity begins at home, and that every man is bound by the laws of nature to conserve his own being rather than another's. But alas! his judges were other kind of men than to be moved by the laws of the land or nature either; wherefore they took from him both his coats and his waistcoat, telling him it was a favour that they took not from him his life also, seeing he had made so much bad use of it.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Being at last committed to Newgate for petty larceny, he was only whipped at the cart's tail, and upon paying his fees obtained his liberty again. Afterwards endeavouring to mend his fortune by marriage, he entered into the state of matrimony with a young woman called Betty, whose employment was to attend daily at the jail of Newgate and run prisoners' errands. By this means and his own good behaviour he quickly raised himself to preferment, for he was made hangman for the county of Middlesex. But the first day he officiated at the sessions at the Old Bailey, going to the Blue Boar ale-house, situated not far from Justice Hall, it was his misfortune to have his burning irons picked out of his pocket, for which he was forced to pawn his waistcoat to have them back again. However, he soon retrieved this loss, for what with slightly putting a "T," which was the only letter he knew in the whole alphabet, on a thief's hand, and correcting others with a gentle lash, he redeemed his waistcoat, and bought a shirt into the bargain. Moreover, at the first cast of his office he performed at Tyburn he made as much off the executed person's clothes among the brokers in Monmouth Street and Chick Lane as procured him several drunken bouts. Though he was bad enough in many things, yet he had one good principle in him while he was hangman, for let him be owing money to anybody, if he could not pay them he was very willing to work it out whenever they pleased—a principle indeed which every rogue is not endowed with.

Whilst he was in this post he took upon him a great deal of state, and on every execution day he had as great a levee as some persons of quality, being attended on by broom-men for old hats, periwig-makers for old wigs, brokers for old coats, suits and cloaks, and cobblers for old shoes. Indeed he was a man in every way qualified for this station, for he had impudence in abundance, cruelty at his finger-ends, drunkenness to perfection, and could swear as well without book as within. However, these natural parts could not protect him, for several envying his felicity, they endeavoured to lower his top-sail, and at last blew him out

JOHN PRICE, COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH
of the haven of his reputable business by his manifold failings.

Some were glad he was to catch nobody any more at Hyde Park Corner, and others as sorry, especially those whom he had often obliged with an old shirt or a handkerchief ; and indeed that which most troubled him for the loss of his place was only that he could not any more send men out of the world without being called to an account for it. Now he was left to shift for himself again ; and indeed, so long as he had any fingers he could make as good a shift as anybody, for there was nothing, except it lay out of his reach, but what he made his own.

What brought him to his end was his going one night over Bunhill Fields in his drunken airs, when he met an old woman, named Elizabeth White, a watchman's wife, who sold pastry-ware about the streets. He violently assaulted her in a barbarous manner, almost knocking one of her eyes out of her head, giving her several bruises about her body, breaking one of her legs, and wounding her in the belly. Whilst he was acting this inhumanity two men came along at the same time, and hearing dreadful groans supposed somebody was in distress, and having the courage to pursue the sound as well as they could, at last came up to the distressed woman, which made Price damn them for their impudence. However they secured him, and brought him to the watch-house in Old Street, from whence a couple of watchmen were sent to fetch the old woman out of Bunhill Fields, who within a day or two died, under the surgeon's hands.

Price was sent to Newgate, where he seemed to be under a great surprise and concern for the death of the woman, till, being tried and condemned for her, he was no sooner confined in the condemned hold, than laying aside all thoughts of preparing himself for his latter end, he appeared quite void of all grace ; and instead of repenting for his manifold sins and transgressions, he would daily go up to chapel intoxicated with cursed Geneva, comforting himself even to the very last that he should fare as well in a future state

NEWGATE CALENDAR

as those who had gone the same way before him. At length the fatal day came wherein he was to bid adieu to the world, which was on Saturday, the 31st of May, 1718. As he was riding in the cart he several times pulled a bottle of Geneva out of his pocket to drink before he came to the place of execution, which was in Bunhill Fields, where he committed the murder. Having arrived at the fatal tree, he was, upon Mr Ordinary's examination, found so ignorant on the ground of religion that he troubled himself not much about it; but valuing himself upon his former profession of being hangman, styled himself finisher of the law, and so was turned off the gibbet, aged upwards of forty years.

JAMES FILEWOOD *ALIAS* VILET

Convicted of picking Pockets, and sentenced to Death.

Executed at Tyburn in October, 1718

THIS fellow was often called Vilet, though Filewood was his right name. He was born in the parish of St Peter's, Cornhill. His father was a poulterer, which occupation he, and two or three other brothers, pretended originally to follow; but, finding that the fiddling work of scalding, picking and gutting cocks and hens and other poultry was not so beneficial as picking pockets, they took up that employment, knowing there was their ready money as soon as they had done their work.

As soon as he had listed himself under the banners of wickedness he first went a-clouting—that is, picking handkerchiefs out of pockets—in which having pretty well improved himself, often after being ducked in a horse-pond, or pumped, he next ventured to pick pockets and fobs of money and watches. To which purpose he always gave his constant attendance at the King's going to the Parliament House, the Lord Mayor's Show, the artillerymen making a mock fight, entries of ambassadors, Bartholomew and Southwark Fairs, Drury Lane and Lincoln's Inn playhouses, or any other place where a great concourse of people were

JAMES FILEWOOD *ALIAS* VILET

drawn together upon any occasion ; and to be sure he never missed going on Sundays to church, though it was more to serve the devil than that omnipotent Majesty to whose honour and glory the house of prayer is erected ; and here he would, as well as pick pockets, change an old hat or two for a new one.

One day this Vilet, meeting with another of his own profession, named Clark—"Come, Clark," quoth he, "since we have so happily stumbled upon one another, let us take a pint together." "A match," says the other ; so they went into a tavern in Holborn. Having drunk a bout for a while, when they came to examine their pockets they found themselves deceived, one thinking the one had, and the other thinking the other had, money enough to defray the reckoning, when indeed both of them could not make above a groat. "Hang it, then," said the inviter, "we had as good be in for a great deal as a little." So they called lustily till it came to five or six shillings ; then, looking out of the window, as if they had been viewing the descent, says one to the other : "I have it now." Upon that, knocking, and desiring to speak with the master, up he came. "Sir," says Vilet, "we came hither about a mathematical business—to measure from your window to the ground. I have laid upon thirteen feet, my friend on thirteen feet nine inches ; and you are to be judge that I slip not this line" (which was packthread upon a piece of brass, which joiners and carpenters use in mensuration) "till he goes down to see whether from this knot" (showing it him), "which is just so much, it reaches to the ground." The vintner was content. The other sharper, being below in the street, cried it did not reach by eleven inches. "Pray, sir," said Vilet to the vintner, "hold it here till I step down and see, for I won't believe him." So down he went, telling the drawer he had paid his master, and away they both scoured, leaving the string for the reckoning.

He was at length taken in picking a pocket, and though the value he took from the person did not come to ten shillings, yet he was convicted thereof ; and likewise upon

NEWGATE CALENDAR

another indictment preferred against him by Mrs Frances Baldock, for snatching from her a pocket valued at one shilling, and in which were twelve guineas and two pistoles. For these facts he received sentence of death at Justice Hall, in the Old Bailey; and accordingly, on the 31st of October, 1718, he took shipping at Newgate, sailed with a fair wind up Holborn river, and striking against the rock of St Giles's, was cast away at Tyburn in the twenty-seventh year of his age.

LIEUTENANT EDWARD BIRD

*Took a Pinch of Snuff just before his Execution at Tyburn, on
23rd of February, 1719, for murdering a Waiter*

MR BIRD was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who having first sent him to Westminster School, then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy, and on his return to England was honoured with the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse.

Before he had been long in the army he began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime which cost him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial that he had taken a woman of the town to a house of ill fame in Silver Street, where Loxton was a waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready, but Loxton, being busy, sent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of passion, made several passes with his sword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand; but the prisoner ran after him, threw him downstairs, and broke some of his ribs. On this the master and mistress of the house and Loxton went into the room and attempted to appease him; but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, seized his sword,

NICHOLAS HORNER

which lay by the bedside, and stabbed Loxton, who fell backwards and died immediately; on which the offender was taken into custody and committed to Newgate.

Being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death, and was ordered for execution on Monday, the 23rd of February. On the night preceding his execution he took a dose of poison, but that not operating as he had expected, he stabbed himself in several places. Yet, however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn in a mourning coach, attended by his mother and the ordinary of Newgate. Being indulged to stay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was put into the cart, where he asked for a glass of wine; but being told it could not be had, he begged a pinch of snuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wishing health to those who stood near him. He then rehearsed the Apostles' Creed, and, being tied up, was launched into eternity on the 23rd of February, 1719, in the twenty-seventh year of his age.

NICHOLAS HORNER

*A Minister's Son who turned Highwayman, and was executed
3rd of April, 1719*

THIS unhappy wretch was the younger son of the minister of Honiton, in Devonshire, and was a very wild untoward child even from infancy. However, his indulgent father, in order to provide for him, bestowed as much learning upon him as qualified him to be clerk to an attorney in Lion's Inn, in Holywell Street, at the end of the New Church in the Strand; but he soon falling into extravagant company, and addicting himself very much to drunkenness and whoredom, ran away from his master before he had served him three years, and betook himself to the highway in order to support himself in the pursuit of those vices. He had such ill luck, nevertheless, in his new profession, as to be taken in the very first robbery he attempted to commit, and accordingly he was sent to Winchester Jail,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

where he remained confined for three months before he was brought to trial and condemned. However, his father made such interest for him at Court that Queen Anne, who was always known to have a great veneration for the clergy, in consideration of his father's being one of that order, was prevailed upon to grant him a pardon, upon condition of his being transported out of her Majesty's dominions, and not settling in any part of Europe for the term of seven years, within six months after his going out of jail.

During the time of the six months which he was allowed to remain in his native country, great interest was also made again to get him off with his transportation ; but that favour not being obtained, his father sent him to Varujayati, in the mission of Madure, on the coast of Coromandel, in the East Indies. In this country the natives still retain that barbarous and inhuman custom of obliging women of an exalted station to burn themselves with the bodies of their deceased husbands. Accordingly, Horner happening to carry with him a wife, an Englishwoman, who was a great beauty, she was taken from him and married to an Indian prince, at whose death she suffered in the manner aforesaid.

After the expiration of the term of seven years, for which he was transported, he came back to England, when, his father and mother being both dead, he received from their executors five hundred pounds, which his parents had bequeathed to him in case he was alive and returned home in such a limited time from the making of the will. But the abandoned reprobate, not forgetting his former extravagances, nor taking warning by his past sufferings, soon consumed all this money, and he had again recourse to the highway.

One day, being upon his rambles in quest of prey, and coming up with a rich farmer—"Well overtaken, friend," said Horner; "methinks you look melancholy: pray what may be your affliction? If you are under any misfortunes by crosses and losses in the world, perhaps it may be in my power to relieve you." The farmer very frankly replied: "Ah! dear sir, were I to say that I have had any losses in the

NICHOLAS HORNER

world, I should be telling a great lie ; for I have been a thriving man all my lifetime, and should want for nothing had I but content. But indeed I have crosses enough, through a damned scolding wife at home, who, though I am the best of husbands to her, and daily do my utmost endeavour to make her and my children happy, yet is she always raving and scolding about the house like a madwoman, insomuch that I am daily teased out of my life. Nay, if there's any such thing as perpetual motion, as some virtuosos affirm, I am sure it is in my wife's tongue ; for it never lies still from morning till night. Nay, scolding is become so habitual to her that she cannot forbear it even in her sleep. Wherefore, could any man tell me a remedy that would cure it, I have a hundred pounds about me in gold and silver which I would freely give him with all my heart for so great a benefit as I should receive by taming this confounded shrew."

At the mention of the agreeable name of a hundred pounds Horner pricked up both his ears and answered : " Sir, I will first tell you the ingredients which enter into the composition of a scold, and the cause of a distemper being truly known, 'twill be the more easy to complete the cure. You must understand, then, that Nature, in making an arrant scold, first took of the tongues and galls of bulls, bears, wolves, magpies, parrots, cuckoos and nightingales, each a like number ; the tongues and tails of vipers, adders, snails and lizards, six apiece ; *aurum fulminans*, *aqua fortis* and gunpowder, of each one pound ; the clappers of seventeen bells and the pestles of thirty apothecaries' mortars. These being all mixed together, she calcined them in Mount Strombolo, and dissolved the ashes in water taken just under London Bridge at three-quarters' flood ; she then filtrated the whole through the leaves of Calepine's *Dictionary*, to render the operation more verbose, after which she distilled it a second time through a speaking trumpet, and closed up the remaining spirits in the mouth of a cannon.

" Then she opened the graves of all newly deceased

NEWGATE CALENDAR

pettifoggers, mountebanks, barbers, coffee-men, newsmongers and fishwives from Billingsgate, and with the skin of their tongues made a bladder, which she covered over drum-heads, and filled with storms, tempests, whirlwinds, thunder and lightning; and in the last place, to make the whole composition the more churlish, she cut a vein under the tongue of the dog-star, extracting from thence a pound of the most choleric blood, and then, sublimating the spirits, she mixed them up with the foam of a mad dog, and putting all together in the fore-mentioned bladder stitched them up therein with the nerves of Socrates' wife."

"A damned compound indeed this is," rejoined the farmer. "Surely it must be impossible at this rate for any man to tame a scold." "Not at all," continued Horner; "for when she first begins to be in her fits, which you may perceive by the bending of her brows, then apply to her a plaster of good words; after that give her a wheedling potion, and if that will not do, take a birch rod and apply the same with a strong arm from shoulder to flank, according to art; that will infallibly complete the cure."

The farmer, being very well pleased with the prescription, not only gave Horner many thanks, but a good treat at the next inn they came to. Afterwards they rode on together again, and when they came to a convenient place, said Horner: "Will you be pleased to pay me now, sir, for the good advice I have given you?" "I thought, sir," answered the farmer, "that the treat I gave you in return was sufficient satisfaction." "No, sir," quoth Horner, "you promised a hundred pounds, and, d—n me, sir," continued he, presenting a pistol to his breast, "deliver your bag this instant, or you are a dead man." At this rough compliment the farmer delivered it to him; but not without a hearty curse or two, and swearing withal that his wife should pay dearly for it the first time he tried the experiment of the birch rod upon her.

Not long after this exploit Horner met with a gentleman upon Hounslow Heath, whom he saluted with the terrifying words: "Stand and deliver." Whereupon the person

NICHOLAS HORNER

assaulted gave him what money he had about him, amounting to about six guineas, and said to him : " Truly, sir, you love money better than I do, to venture your neck for it."

" I only follow the general way of the world, sir," quoth Horner, " which now prefers money before either friends or honesty, yea, some before the salvation of their souls ; for it is the love of gold that makes an unjust judge take a bribe ; a corrupt lawyer plead a wrong cause in defiance of truth and justice ; a physician kill a man whom he pretends to cure, without fear of hanging ; a surgeon keep a patient long in hand, by laying on one plaster to heal, and two to draw his wound. 'Tis gold that makes the tradesman tell every day a thousand lies behind the counter, in putting off his bad wares ; 'tis that makes the butcher blow his veal, the tailor covet so much cabbage, the miller take toll twice, the baker wear a wooden cravat, and the shoemaker stretch his leather as he does his conscience. In short, 'tis that makes gentlemen of the pad, as I am, wear a Tyburn tippet, or old Storey's cap, on some country gallows, which all of our noble profession value no more than you, sir, do the losing of this small trifle of six guineas."

Next day Horner overtook, beyond Maidenhead Thicket, a young man and a young woman who were going to be married at Henley-upon-Thames, with a couple of bridesmen and bridesmaids.

These he presently attacked, which put the young people into the utmost consternation, especially the intended bridegroom, who told Horner upon what design they were going, and added that he would prevent their marriage, at least that day, if he took their money from them. But he was inexorable and deaf to all their entreaties, and immediately stripped them of every farthing of their coin, to the value of twenty guineas, to the no small mortification of the young couple.

However the ill-natured rogue, not satisfied therewith, demanded also the wedding-ring, for which the intended bridegroom entreated him yet more earnestly than for his money ; but Horner being resolutely bent upon having it,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

they delivered it to him ; whereupon he said : “ You foolish young devils, do you know what you are going about? Are you voluntarily going to precipitate yourselves into inevitable ruin and destruction, by running your heads into the matrimonial noose with your eyes open? Do you know it is an apprenticeship for life, and a hard one too? You had better be ruled by me, and take one another’s words ; and if you do, you’ll find in taking my counsel that it is the best day’s work you ever did since the hour of your birth.”

Not long after this exploit a lady of distinction, being alone in the stage-coach that goes between Colchester and London, was informed by the coachman, as they were coming by Braintree, in Essex, that if her ladyship had any things of value about her, it would be her best way to secure them as well as she could, for he saw several suspicious fellows scouting up and down the heath, whom he mistrusted to be highwaymen. Upon this caution the lady put her gold watch, a purse of guineas and a very fine suit of laced head-cloths under her seat. This done she dishevelled her hair in a very uncouth manner all over her head and shoulders, by which time Horner had ridden up to her, and presenting a pistol into the coach demanded her money.

Hereupon the lady, who was a very fine woman, having great presence of mind, bethought herself of acting the part of a lunatic, which she did to the life, for opening the coach door and leaping out, and taking Horner by one of his legs, she shrieked out in a most piteous and lamentable shrill voice : “ Ah ! dear Cousin Tom, I am glad to see you. I hope you will now rescue me from this rogue of a coachman, who is carrying me, by that villain my husband’s order, to Bedlam for a madwoman.” “ D—n me,” replied Horner, “ I am none of your cousin ; I don’t know you. I believe you are mad indeed, so Bedlam is the fittest place for you.” “ Ah ! Cousin Tom,” said the lady again, “ but I will go along with you ; I won’t go to Bedlam.” She then clung close to Horner and his horse, and counterfeited

BARBARA SPENCER

lunacy with such dexterity that he really thought it natural, and asked the coachman : " Do you know this mad b—h? " " Yes," replied the coachman, " I know the lady very well ; she is sadly distracted, for she has torn her head-cloths all to pieces and thrown them away as we came along ; and I am now going with her by her husband's orders to London, to put her into a madhouse, where she may be cured ; but not into Bedlam, as she supposes." " E'en take her then along with you to the devil, if you will," said Horner in a passion, " for I thought to have met with a good purchase, and I find now there is nothing to be got of this mad toad."

So he set spurs to his horse and rode away as fast as he could, for fear of being plagued any more with her, for she seemed mighty fond of her cousin, and ran a good way after him ; but after he was gone out of sight she was better pleased with his absence than his company, and got safe to London.

When attempting to rob a couple of gentlemen in Devonshire Horner was taken, and committed to Southgate, in Exeter ; and receiving sentence of death he was hanged, on Friday, 3rd of April, 1719, aged thirty-two years.

BARBARA SPENCER

Executed at Tyburn on the 5th of July, 1721, for Coining.

She was probably the first Woman to suffer the Death

Penalty for what was regarded as Treason

BARBARA SPENCER was born in the parish of St Giles without Cripplegate, and when young proved to be of a violent temper. At length her mother, finding her quite unmanageable at home, put her apprentice to a mantle-maker, who, having known her from a child, treated her with great kindness.

Not long after this it happened that some malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara insisted on going to see the execution. This was prudently opposed by her mother, who, struggling to keep her at home, struck

NEWGATE CALENDAR

her ; but the daughter, getting out of the house, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and thence to a house near St Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that she would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe that she might live in an easy manner if she would but follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed ; and as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, for which she was detected, tried, fined and imprisoned.

Not taking warning by what had happened, she returned to her old connections, commenced coiner herself, and was at length convicted of the crime for which she suffered.

While under sentence of death she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner ; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty of any crime in making a few shillings. She was for some time very impatient under the idea of her approaching dissolution, and was particularly shocked at the thought of being burned ; but at the place of execution she seemed willing to exercise herself in devotion, but was much interrupted by the mob throwing stones and dirt at her.

She was strangled and burned, and was probably the first woman to suffer this punishment for coining, which was then regarded as a treason.

WILLIAM SHAW

Executed in 1721 for " Murdering " his Daughter, who, it was afterwards proved, committed Suicide

WILLIAM SHAW was an upholsterer at Edinburgh in the year 1721. He had a daughter, Catherine Shaw, who lived with him. She encouraged the addresses of John Lawson, a jeweller, to whom William Shaw declared the most insuperable objections, alleging him to be a profligate young man, addicted to every kind of dissipation. He was forbidden the house ; but the daughter continuing

WILLIAM SHAW

to see him clandestinely, the father, on the discovery, kept her strictly confined.

William Shaw had for some time pressed his daughter to receive the addresses of a son of Alexander Robertson, a friend and neighbour ; and one evening, he being very urgent with her thereon, she peremptorily refused, declaring she preferred death to being young Robertson's wife. The father grew enraged and the daughter more positive ; so that the most passionate expressions arose on both sides, and the words " barbarity, cruelty and death " were frequently pronounced by the daughter. At length he left her, locking the door after him.

The greatest part of the buildings at Edinburgh were formed on the plan of the chambers in our inns of court ; so that many families inhabited rooms on the same floor, having all one common staircase. William Shaw dwelt in one of these, and only a single partition divided his apartment from that of James Morrison, a watchcase-maker. This man had indistinctly overheard the conversation and quarrel between Catherine Shaw and her father, but was particularly struck with the repetition of the above words, she having pronounced them loudly and emphatically. For some little time after the father had gone out all was silent, but presently Morrison heard several groans from the daughter. Alarmed, he ran to some of his neighbours under the same roof. These, entering Morrison's room and listening attentively, not only heard the groans, but distinctly heard Catherine Shaw two or three times faintly exclaim : " Cruel father, thou art the cause of my death ! " Struck with this, they flew to the door of Shaw's apartment ; they knocked—no answer was given. The knocking was still repeated—still no answer. Suspicions had before arisen against the father ; they were now confirmed. A constable was procured, an entrance forced. Catherine was found weltering in her blood, and the fatal knife by her side. She was alive, but speechless ; but on questioning her as to owing her death to her father she was just able to make a motion with her head, apparently in the affirmative, and expired.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Just at the critical moment William Shaw returned and entered the room. All eyes were on him. He saw his neighbours and a constable in his apartment, and seemed much disordered thereat; but at the sight of his daughter he turned pale, trembled, and was ready to sink. The first surprise, and the succeeding horror, left little doubt of his guilt in the breasts of the beholders; and even that little was done away with on the constable discovering that the shirt of William Shaw was bloody.

He was instantly hurried before a magistrate, and, upon the depositions of all the parties, committed to prison on suspicion. He was shortly after brought to trial, when, in his defence, he acknowledged having confined his daughter to prevent her intercourse with Lawson; that he had frequently insisted on her marrying Robertson; and that he had quarrelled with her on the subject the evening she was found murdered, as the witness Morrison had deposed: but he averred that he left his daughter unharmed and untouched, and that the blood found upon his shirt was there in consequence of his having bled himself some days before and the bandage becoming untied. These assertions did not weigh with the jury, when opposed to the strong circumstantial evidence of the daughter's expressions of "barbarity, cruelty, death," and of "Cruel father, thou art the cause of my death"—together with that apparently affirmative motion with her head, and of the blood so seemingly providentially discovered on the father's shirt. On these several concurring circumstances was William Shaw found guilty and executed, and was hanged in chains, at Leith Walk, in November, 1721.

In August, 1722, as a man who had become the possessor of the late William Shaw's apartment was rummaging by chance in the chamber where Catherine Shaw died, he accidentally perceived a paper which had fallen into a cavity on one side of the chimney. It was folded as a letter, which, on being opened, contained the following:—

NATHANIEL HAWES

BARBAROUS FATHER,—Your cruelty in having put it out of my power ever to join my fate to that of the only man I could love, and tyrannically insisting upon my marrying one whom I always hated, has made me form a resolution to put an end to an existence which is become a burthen to me. I doubt not I shall find mercy in another world; for sure no benevolent being can require that I should any longer live in torment to myself in this! My death I lay to your charge: when you read this, consider yourself as the inhuman wretch that plunged the murderous knife into the bosom of the unhappy

CATHERINE SHAW.

This letter being shown, the handwriting was recognised and avowed to be Catherine Shaw's by many of her relations and friends. The magistracy of Edinburgh, on a scrutiny, being convinced of its authenticity, they ordered the body of William Shaw to be taken from the gibbet and given to his family for interment; and as the only reparation to his memory and the honour of his surviving relations they caused a pair of colours to be waved over his grave, in token of his innocence.

NATHANIEL HAWES

Highwayman, who underwent Torture for the Sake of his Honour. Executed at Tyburn, 21st of December, 1721

NATHANIEL HAWES was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701. His father was a grazier in ample circumstances, but dying while the son was an infant, a relation in Hertfordshire took care of his education. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his master when he had served only two years of his time, for which he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

This sentence, however, was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumstance. A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchasing, at a very low rate, such goods as he stole from his master; but when Hawes was taken into custody he gave information of this affair, in consequence of which a search warrant was procured, and many effects belonging to Hawes's master were found in Phillips's possession. Hereafter application was made to the King, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence against Phillips, who was tried for receiving stolen goods, and transported for fourteen years. Hawes, during his confinement in Newgate, had made such connections as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals; and soon after his release he connected himself with a set of bad fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild, and having made a particular acquaintance with one John James, they joined in the commission of a number of robberies. After an uncommon share of success for some days they quarrelled on the division of the booty, in consequence of which each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus separated, Hawes, being apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed against his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into custody, tried, convicted and executed.

Notwithstanding this conviction, the Court sentenced Hawes to be imprisoned in the New Prison, and that jail was preferred to Newgate because the prisoners in the latter threatened to murder Hawes for being an evidence against James. Here it should be observed that, by an Act—4th and 5th of William and Mary—for the More Effectual Conviction of Highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed, but the evidence cannot claim his liberty unless two or more of his accomplices are convicted, but may be imprisoned during the pleasure of the Court.

Soon after his commitment Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and entering into partnership committed a variety of robberies, particularly on the road between

NATHANIEL HAWES

Hackney and Shoreditch. This connection, like the former, lasted but a short time. A dispute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occasioned a separation; soon after which Hawes went alone to Finchley Common, where, meeting with a gentleman riding to town, he presented a pistol to his breast and commanded him instantly to dismount, that he might search him for his money. The gentleman offered him four shillings, on which Hawes swore the most horrid oaths, and threatened instant death if he did not immediately submit. The gentleman quitted his horse, and in the same moment seized the pistol, which he snatched from the hand of the robber, and presenting it at him told him to expect death if he did not surrender himself. Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been insolent, made no opposition; and the driver of a cart coming up just at that juncture he was easily made prisoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate.

When the sessions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refused to plead to his indictment, alleging the following reason for so doing: that he would die, as he had lived, like a gentleman. "The people," said he, "who apprehended me, seized a suit of fine clothes, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in; and unless they are returned I will not plead, for no one shall say that I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat." On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority; but this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death. Whereupon he was taken from the court, and, being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds' weight about seven minutes; but unable any longer to bear the pain he entreated he might be conducted back to the court, which being complied with, he pleaded "Not guilty"; but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted and sentenced to die. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 21st of December, 1721.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

ARUNDEL COOKE, Esq., AND
JOHN WOODBURNE

*The First who suffered Death under the Coventry Act.
Executed at Bury St Edmunds, 5th of April, 1722*

PREVIOUS to the passing of what was known as the Coventry Act it was customary for revengeful men to waylay another and cut and maim him, so that though he did not die of such wounds he might remain a cripple during the remainder of life, and such case was not then a capital offence. It was also a dangerous practice resorted to by thieves, who would often cut the sinews of men's legs, called ham-stringing, in order to prevent their escape from being robbed.

Sir John Coventry in the reign of Charles II. having opposed the measures of the Court in the House of Commons, in revenge some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent Garden, slit his nose and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the Members of both Houses of Parliament passed an Act, in a few days, by which it was ordained that "Unlawfully cutting out or disabling the tongue, of malice aforethought or by lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the nose or lip, or cutting off or disabling any limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy." By this law it is likewise enacted that "accessaries shall likewise be deemed principals."

Mr Cooke was born at Bury St Edmunds, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and when he had given him a university education he sent him to the Temple to study the law, after which he was called to the Bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place. Mr Crisp being a gentleman of large property, but in a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the

ARUNDEL COOKE AND JOHN WOODBURNE

counsellor in the case of the lady dying before her husband. It was not long after Mr Crisp had made his will before he recovered his health in some degree ; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who, wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms. However he at length grew so impatient that he could not come into possession by the death of Mr Crisp that he resolved to remove him by murder, and for that purpose engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan ; for which piece of service he promised to give him a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business ; but, reflecting on his poverty, the largeness of his family tempted him to comply. On this it was agreed the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening ; and as Mr Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the churchyard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the tombstones, till Cooke gave him the signal of attack, which was to be a loud whistle. Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law ; but declining to stay to supper he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the churchyard by Cooke, who gave the agreed signal. Woodburne quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner, in which he was abetted by the counsellor.

Imagining they had dispatched him, Mr Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings and instantly went home ; but he had not arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Mr Crisp knocked at the door, and entered, covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed and his wounds dressed by a surgeon. At the end of about a week he

NEWGATE CALENDAR

was so much mended that he was removed to his own house. He had no doubt but Cooke was one of the persons who had assaulted him, but he resolved not to speak of the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened. The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion, and making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, and both convicted.

When they were called upon to receive sentence of death Cooke desired to be heard; and on the Court complying with his request he urged that judgment could not pass on the verdict, because the Act of Parliament simply mentions an intention to maim or deface, whereas he was firmly resolved to have committed murder. He quoted several law cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the cause. The Counsel for the Crown opposed the arguments of Cooke. He insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners.

Lord Chief Justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared he could not admit the force of Mr Cooke's plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge—"For," said he, "it would establish a principle in the law inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason, as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead that the judgment must be arrested because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention is naturally implied when the crime is actually committed." His Lordship said that "Crisp was assassinated in the manner laid in the indictment: it is therefore to be taken for granted that the intention was to maim and deface; wherefore the Court will proceed to give judgment"; and accordingly sentence of death was passed on Cooke and his accomplice.

A short time before the day of execution Cooke wrote

JOHN HARTLEY AND THOMAS REEVES

to the sheriff, requesting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being exposed to the country people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages; and in consequence thereof he was hanged at four o'clock in the morning, and Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the same day.

JOHN HARTLEY AND THOMAS REEVES

Footpads, who were executed at Tyburn on the 4th of May, 1722, after One had, by a Ruse, petitioned the King

JOHAN HARTLEY and Thomas Reeves were indicted at the Old Bailey for stopping a journeyman tailor in the fields near Harrow and robbing him of twopence and his clothes, and because he had no more money they stripped and beat him most inhumanly, and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched situation some persons who came by unbound him and took him to an ale-house, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his clothes, and described the persons of the robbers to the best of his power.

These circumstances were heard by a fiddler, who, going next day into a public-house in Fore Street, saw the fellows offering to sell the tailor's coat. The fiddler immediately proposed to be the purchaser, gave earnest for it and, pretending he had not money enough, said he would fetch the difference; instead of which he brought the party robbed, and he knowing the footpads they were taken into custody.

The evidence on their trial was so plain that the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was unbecoming to persons in their unhappy circumstances. That of Reeves was particularly hardened; he would sing and swear while the other convicts were at prayers, yet he told the ordinary that he was certain of going to heaven.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

The most curious circumstance arising from the detection of these offenders was the singular method which Hartley took to save his life. He procured six young women, dressed in white, to go to St James's and present a petition on his behalf. The singularity of their appearance gained them admission, when they delivered their petition, and told the King that if he extended the Royal mercy to the offender they would cast lots which should be his wife; but his Majesty said that he was more deserving of the gallows than a wife, and accordingly refused their request.

As they were going to execution the ordinary asked Reeves if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies. "No," said he, "she is a worthy woman, whose first husband happening to be hanged, I married her that she might not reproach me by a repetition of his virtues."

At the fatal tree Reeves behaved in the most hardened manner, affected to despise death, and said he believed he might go to heaven from the gallows as safely as from his bed.

JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON

*Highwaymen and Mail Robbers. Executed at Tyburn
on the 21st of May, 1722*

JOHN HAWKINS was born at Staines, in Middlesex, and for some time lived as waiter at the Red Lion, at Brentford; but leaving this place, he then engaged as a gentleman's servant. Having been at length in different families, he became butler to Sir Dennis Drury, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. His person was uncommonly graceful and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to frequent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befell him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive it was suspected that he was the thief, for which reason he was discharged, without the advantage



Langdon delin

Goodnight sculp

THE MAIL ROBBED *near COLNBROOK*
by In^o Hawkins and Geo. Simpson

JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON

of a good character. Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence, he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach ; but such was his attachment to gaming that he repaired directly to London and lost it all. He continued to rob alone for some time, and then engaged with other highwaymen ; but the same fate still attended him—he lost by gaming what he acquired at so much risk, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house and sneak off without paying his reckoning. Several of his old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in Chancery, but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-table. These associates, having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them, but acquitted for want of evidence. After which Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then, coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law. But having lost his money in gaming, he renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains, one of whom, however, being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon depressed the gang, but not until some of them had made their exit at Tyburn ; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time. But at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley Common, and shot one of his servants too, who died on the spot. His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond Lane, from whom he took about twenty pounds, two gold watches and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of one hundred pounds was offered to Jonathan Wild, but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it and there sold it for forty pounds.

On his return to England he rejoined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered sixty pounds' reward to Wild ;

NEWGATE CALENDAR

but Hawkins's gang having no connection with that villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expense. They next stopped Mr Hyde, of Hackney, in his coach, and robbed him of ten pounds and his watch, but missed three hundred pounds which the gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmorland's coach, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch, but on the robbers firing a pistol over their heads the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland, but Jonathan Wild, having heard of the connection, caused some of the gang to be apprehended, on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves. On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian Library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery, and one hundred pounds' reward being offered to discover the offender, a poor tailor, having been taken up on suspicion narrowly escaped being whipped, merely because he was of Whiggish principles.

Hawkins and his friend returning to London, the latter, coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for three hundred and fifty pounds, a small part of which he lent to his companions to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table. The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder and the highwaymen got to London with some difficulty.

On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde Park, but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand found it difficult to scale the Park wall to effect his escape. This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully

JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON

determined never to recur to his former practices. While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with one George Simpson, another associate, who was a native of Putney, in Surrey. They went to London together and formed connections with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. At length it was determined to rob the Bristol mail, and they set out on an expedition for that purpose.

It appeared at the trial that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley Broom, where a person rode up to them and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulled their wigs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs over their mouths came up with them and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, when they ordered them to quit their horses; and then Hawkins, Simpson and Wilson tied them back to back and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge. They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surrey put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey Street. Having equally divided the bank-notes, they threw the letters into the fire and then went to their lodgings in Green Arbour Court, in the Old Bailey. A few days after this, information was given at the Post Office that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper, at London Wall; accordingly some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happened to be there at the time and suspected their business, and later he was apprehended and conducted to the Post Office. On his first examination he refused to make any confession, and on the following day he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances

NEWGATE CALENDAR

induced him to reveal it. In the first place the Postmaster-General promised that he should be admitted an evidence if he would discover his accomplices ; and one of the clerks, calling him aside, showed him a letter without any name to it, of which the following is a copy :—

SIR,—I am one of those persons who robbed the mail, which I am sorry for ; and to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be will, I hope, be entitled to the reward of his pardon.

As Wilson knew this letter to be in Simpson's handwriting, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodgings in the Old Bailey two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance and threatened to shoot the peace officers ; but on the latter saying they were provided with arms the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate. A verdict of guilty was returned against both prisoners. They suffered at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722, and were hanged in chains on Hounslow Heath.

WILLIAM SPIGGOT AND THOMAS PHILLIPS

Who suffered the Torture for refusing to plead.

Executed at Tyburn, 8th of February, 1723,

for Robbery

WILLIAM SPIGGOT and Thomas Phillips were indicted at the Old Bailey for committing several robberies on the highway, but they refused to plead unless the effects taken from them when they were apprehended were returned ; but this being directly contrary to an Act—the 4th and 5th of King William and Queen Mary—entitled “ An Act for Encouraging the Apprehending of Highwaymen,” the Court informed them that their demand could not be complied with.

WILLIAM SPIGGOT AND THOMAS PHILLIPS

Still, however, they refused to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the absurdity of such an obstinate procedure; on which the Court ordered that the judgment ordained by law in such cases should be read, which is to the following purpose:—

“That the prisoner should be sent to the prison from whence he came, and put into a mean room, stopped from the light, and shall there be laid on the bare ground, without any litter, straw, or other covering, or without any garment about him, except something to hide his privy members. He shall lie upon his back; his head shall be covered and his feet shall be bare. One of his arms shall be drawn with a cord to one side of the room, and the other arm to the other side, and his legs shall be served in the like manner. Then there shall be laid upon his body as much iron or stone as he can bear, and more. And the first day after he shall have three morsels of barley bread, without any drink; and the second day he shall be allowed to drink as much as he can at three times of the water that is next the prison-door, except running water, without any bread; and this shall be his diet till he dies; and he against whom this judgment shall be given forfeits his goods to the King.”¹

The reading of this sentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be pressed to death. But when they came to the press-room Phillips begged to be taken back to plead—a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him—but Spiggot was put under the press, where he continued half-an-hour with three hundred and fifty pounds’ weight on his body; but on the addition of fifty pounds more he likewise begged to plead.

In consequence thereof they were again brought back, and again indicted, when, the evidence being clear and positive against them, they were convicted, received sentence of death, and were executed, along with Oakey, Levee and Flood.

¹ This Act becoming barbarous to Englishmen, in 1772 it was determined that persons refusing to plead should be deemed guilty, as if convicted by a jury.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

William Spiggot, who was about twenty-seven years of age when he suffered, was a native of Hereford, but coming to London, he apprenticed himself to a cabinetmaker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles Sybbald on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the evidence of Joseph Linsey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party.

JACOB SAUNDERS

*Who murdered a Farmer at Caversham, and was arrested
at Church. Executed in March, 1723*

THIS inhuman wretch was born at Reading, in Berks. His father was a woolcomber, and had the character of an honest man, but was blamed for not restraining him enough in his youth, for he discovered his evil inclinations as soon as he was capable of action, by pilfering and cheating his companions on every occasion.

Jacob was brought up to his father's trade, but work was not at all agreeable to him. He chose much rather to be in the street, or at the head of any party in robbing orchards, hen-roosts, etc.—crimes which are commonly the forerunners of greater villainies. By these methods our young woolcomber came to be looked upon as a vagabond while he was yet a boy and under the tuition of his father.

When he came to be about twenty years of age nothing would serve his turn but matrimony. So he looked out for one who might be suitable. At last he got acquainted with one Elizabeth Grey, with whom he soon struck up a match. The woman had no bad character before, but had been employed in chair-work by a great many people in the town. Nor was she ever charged with anything after this, but only the concealing of his crimes too long; which might admit of some excuse, considering that she was his wife.

His reputation daily grew worse and worse a long time before the unhappy accident that brought him to his end.

JACOB SAUNDERS

There was one Mr Blagrave, a farmer, who lived in Oxfordshire, about two miles from Reading (the River Thames, which divides Berkshire and Oxfordshire, running just by the said town), a man of plentiful fortune and a generous soul, beloved by all both on account of his justice and his open free deportment on every occasion. It was this gentleman's misfortune one Saturday, which is the market-day, to bring a large quantity of corn to Reading and sell it together, receiving about sixty pounds in payment. Saunders, by some means or other, got intelligence of this affair; and knowing that Mr Blagrave commonly stayed pretty late in town to drink with his friends, the devil put it into his head to dog him the remaining part of the day. Mr Blagrave, in the evening, went to the sign of the Catherine Wheel, as usual, and stayed there till he was a little in liquor, though not so much but he remembered his charge of money, and gave it to the landlady. Jacob knew nothing of this last particular, though he was now in the house; so that when he observed Mr Blagrave's condition he resolved to follow him over the fields and take the opportunity of murdering him, for the sake of his money.

Mr Blagrave saw the villain come in and sit down in the public-house; upon which he asked him, with his usual good nature, how he did, ordering the people of the house at the same time to bring him liquor, and paying for what he drank.

About eleven at night Mr Blagrave left the house, with intent to go home. He crossed the meadows to Caversham, which is about a mile, and went through the village very safely, without suspecting in the least that he was pursued.

Jacob kept all the way within hearing of the unhappy gentleman. When he came to Caversham he took a large rugged club out of a baker's woodstack, having before no weapon, wherewith to perpetrate the horrid deed. As soon as they had got through the village the villain mended his pace till he came up to Mr Blagrave's heels, whose security in himself still hindered him from taking any notice of a man behind him. At last, when they were within less than

NEWGATE CALENDAR

a mile of Mr Blaggrave's habitation, Saunders stepped up, just as he was crossing a stile, struck him on the head with his faggot-stick, and laid him flat on the ground, still continuing to beat him in a most barbarous manner, till he thought him quite dead. Yet, even then, he was afraid to search his pockets till he had pulled off his own garters and bound him hand and foot. So unmanly and suspicious is the nature of cruelty. How the monster was disappointed when, upon examination, he found only a shilling and some halfpence instead of sixty or seventy pounds! Yet there was no remedy; all he could do was to abuse the poor bruised, mangled and, as he thought, dead body a little more; which he did by beating it again with his club and stamping upon it with his feet. After he had done all this he went home to bed, not speaking a word of the affair to his wife, who, nevertheless, observed him to be more uneasy than ordinary.

Mr Blaggrave, however, was not quite dead, though he lay without either sense or motion till he was found in the morning, by some who knew him, and carried home to his house, where surgeons were sent for immediately. These gave their opinion that it was impossible for him to recover, though he might probably live some days, as his constitution was very strong. It happened as they said, though all the time he continued he was never able to give any account of his misfortune sufficient to fix the murder upon any particular person. Yet as it had been observed that Jacob Saunders was at the ale-house while Mr Blaggrave was there, and that he went out much about the same time with him, these circumstances, together with his bad character, created a suspicion of him. This grew so strong that, before Sunday in the afternoon, some persons in the town made it their business to find him out and observe his motions, when they saw him, contrary to his custom, go to church, and look more heavy and dull than usual, though he had always a downward countenance, almost sufficient to have informed people what he was, and bade them beware of him.

JACOB SAUNDERS

While he was at church these persons went to the Mayor, and told him of their suspicions, together with what they had observed and heard ; desiring he might be apprehended and examined. The Mayor accordingly granted his warrant, and the officers were sent with it to the church door, where they seized him as he came out, and committed him to the compter. In the meantime another warrant was granted to take up his wife, in order to their being examined separately ; and she was put into another room of the same prison, so that they could not converse together.

The Mayor and some of his brethren went that same evening to the compter. When Jacob was examined he strongly denied the fact, but seemed very much confused. His wife confessed what time he came home, and the disorder he was in ; and when the garters with which Mr Blagrove's hands had been bound were shown her, she owned that she believed they were her husband's garters. They were both ordered to be kept for further examination.

Before next day Jacob found means to get out of the prison, but went no farther than his father's, where he was found, hidden in an obscure garret, to which he had conveyed himself without his father's knowledge. Upon fresh examination he confessed the fact, and told where he had thrown the club with which he performed it. They found the stick at the place he directed them to ; whereupon he was committed to the county jail. Understanding that when two or three are concerned in any felony or murder, he that impeaches the rest saves his own life, it came into his head to fix this bloody deed upon two other men whose characters were not sufficient to secure them from being suspected. Accordingly he made affidavit before a justice, who came to see him, against these two persons, who were thereupon seized, and sent immediately to prison. They lay in jail almost the whole of a very cold winter for a fact of which they were entirely innocent, merely through the unparalleled wickedness of Saunders, which prompted him to stick at nothing.

At Reading Assizes, the March following, these men were

NEWGATE CALENDAR

set at liberty, and Jacob, within two days after, was carried to Oxford, under a strong guard, the fatal club being all the way borne before him. He was sentenced to be hanged in chains at the spot where the shocking deed was perpetrated. However, as this place was near the village of Caversham, the inhabitants prevailed to have it done on a heath about four miles higher in Oxfordshire, called Gallows-Tree Common, from a tree in it, one arm of which grows into another tree, and forms the likeness of a gallows. Here a gibbet was erected. On Monday, about the middle of March, 1723, the wretch was brought to his execution. He was turned off without any pity, and immediately after he was dead he was hung up in irons.

WILLIAM BURK

After an adventurous Seafaring Life as a Boy he became a Robber, and was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723

WILLIAM BURK was born in the parish of St Catherine's, and near the Tower of London. Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, which having received, he ran away from school and went to the water-side, inquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the *Salisbury* man-of-war.

The mother, learning where her darling boy had gone, followed him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return, but in vain, for the youth was obstinately bent on a seafaring life.

In about a fortnight the ship sailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took, after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met with another galleon, which they took without the loss of

WILLIAM BURK

a man ; but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost her life by a chain-shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared each fifteen pounds prize-money on these captures, but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West Indies, during which time Burk learned the art of stealing everything that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate some years before, but having married a planter, who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her customers.

The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the island, but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress ; but she herself had been a thief, and soon detected him. Thereupon he fell on his knees and begged pardon, which was granted ; but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed at the danger from which he had escaped he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and with that view shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape of being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his shipmates.

On the return of his ship from Guinea to England the weather was so bad that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced that they were almost famished, the allowance of each man for the whole day being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls ; and at length they were obliged to fast five days successively.

However they reached the port in safety ; and, notwith-

NEWGATE CALENDAR

standing the miseries they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves they set sail for the West India islands, but during the voyage the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship, and would probably have carried it into execution but that one of their associates betrayed them; in consequence of which they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West Indies to England, where he entered on board a man-of-war and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel, to the north of Russia, where his sufferings from the extremity of the cold and other circumstances were so severe that on his return to England he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney; but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer on the highway, and again, on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and being found guilty on both indictments he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor, for he carried a hedge-bill with him, to terrify the persons he stopped; and one old man hesitating to comply with his demand, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes, received the Sacrament with great devotion, and declared that if he obtained mercy from God it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of April, 1723, in the twenty-third year of his age.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH

Soldier, who killed a Civilian with his Musket in St James's Park. Executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1723

THIS criminal was born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a creditable trade; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted in London as a soldier in the Foot Guards. At this period party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace.

While Hawksworth was marching with other soldiers to relieve the guard in St James's Park a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried: "What a stir is here about King George's soldiers!" Hawksworth quitted his rank and gave the woman a blow on the face. Irritated thereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of his behaviour to her.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the meantime the crowd of people gathered round Ransom, and, finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him and found his skull fractured to such a degree that there were no hopes of his recovery; and he died in a few hours.

Thereupon a person who had been a witness to what passed in the Park went to the Savoy, and, having learned the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the colonel whom he had served gave him an excellent character; but the facts were so clearly proved that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death was passed accordingly.

A few minutes before he was executed he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict

NEWGATE CALENDAR

guard over their passions; he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered cowards if they do not resent an injury, and if they do, are liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompense their sufferings.

PHILIP ROCHE

Executed on 5th of August, 1723, for many Murders on the High Seas and Piracy

PHILIP ROCHE was a native of Ireland, and, being brought up to a seafaring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbados on board a West Indiaman. Here he endeavoured to procure the place of a clerk to a factor, but failing in this he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who hinted to him that large sums of money might be acquired by insuring ships and then causing them to be sunk, to defraud the insurers.

Roche was wicked enough to listen to this horrid tale, and becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ship bound for Cape Breton he got a station on board, next in command to the captain, who, having a high opinion of him, trusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he had brought on board with him five Irishmen, who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued.

When they had been only a few days at sea the plan was executed as follows. One night, when the captain and most of the crew were asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the

PHILIP ROCHE

seamen to furl the sails, which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended on to the deck than Roche and his hellish associates murdered them and threw them overboard. At this instant a man and a boy at the yard-arm, observing what had passed, and dreading a similar fate, hurried towards the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and seizing the boy threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect at least a present escape, descended to the main deck, where Roche instantly seized him, murdered him, and then threw him overboard.

The noise occasioned by these transactions alarming the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition ; but they were severally seized and murdered as fast as they came on deck, being first knocked on the head, and then thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarterdeck, when Roche and his villainous companions seized them and, tying them back to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

These execrable murders being perpetrated, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased, then sat down to regale themselves with liquor ; and while the profligate crew were carousing they determined to commence as pirates, and that Roche should be the captain, as the reward of his superior villainy.

They had intended to have sailed up the Gulf of St Lawrence, but as they were within a few days' sail of the British Channel when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and giving the vessel a fictitious name they painted her afresh, and then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown ; and an English gentleman, named Annesley, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the Port of London ; but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard after they had been only one day at sea.

When the ship arrived in the River Thames, Mr Annesley's friends made inquiry after him, in consequence of his having

NEWGATE CALENDAR

sent letters to England describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied any knowledge of the gentleman, and even disclaimed his own name.

Notwithstanding his confident assertions it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the Secretary of State for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche, and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shown him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty Sessions.

It was intimated to Roche that he might expect a pardon if he would impeach any three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction; but not being able to do this he was brought to his trial, and found guilty. Judgment of death was awarded against him.

After conviction he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, since he attended the devotions according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock, on the 5th of August, 1723.

RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT, ROBERT
KINGSHELL, HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD
PINK, JOHN PINK AND JAMES ANSELL

*The "Waltham Blacks," who were executed at Tyburn,
4th of December, 1723, for Murder and Deer-Stealing*

THESE men belonged to a gang of daring plunderers, who carried on their depredations with such effrontery that it was found necessary to enact the law hereafter recited, in order to bring them to condign punishment; and it was not long after it was in force before it took due effect upon them.

Having blackened their faces, they went in the daytime

PARVIN, ELLIOT, KINGSHELL, MARSHALL

to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the Bishop of Winchester's keeper on Waltham Chase; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the "Waltham Blacks."

The following is the substance of the Act of Parliament on which they were convicted: "After the first day of June, 1723, any person appearing in any forest, chase, park, etc., or in any highroad, open heath, common or down, with offensive weapons, and having his face blacked, or otherwise disguised, or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding, killing or stealing any red or fallow deer, or unlawfully robbing any warren, etc., or stealing any fish out of any river or pond, or (whether armed or disguised or not) breaking down the head or mound of any fishpond, whereby the fish may be lost or destroyed; or unlawfully and maliciously killing, maiming or wounding any cattle, or cutting down or otherwise destroying any trees planted in any avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard or plantation, for ornament, shelter or profit; or setting fire to any house, barn or outhouse, hovel, cock-mow or stack of corn, straw, hay or wood; or maliciously shooting at any person in any dwelling-house or other place; or knowingly sending any letter without any name, or signed with a fictitious name, demanding money, venison or other valuable thing, or forcibly rescuing any person being in custody for any of the offences before mentioned, or procuring any person by gift, or promise of money, or other reward, to join in any such unlawful act, or concealing or succouring such offenders when, by Order of Council, etc., required to surrender—shall suffer death."

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power all the above-mentioned offenders were taken into custody, and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither under a strong guard and lodged in Newgate. On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the Court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the clearest evidence were found guilty

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and sentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they should suffer on the 4th of the next month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion: the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue; nor did he recover his speech till the day before his death.

JOHN STANLEY

*An Insolent Puppy who presumed on his Swordsmanship.
Executed at Tyburn, 23rd of December, 1723, for
murdering his Mistress*

JOHN STANLEY was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce Hall, in Essex, a seat that belonged to Mr Palmer, who was his uncle by his mother's side. Young Stanley, being the favourite of his father, was taught the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when he was but a mere boy, for to stimulate his courage it was common for those who fenced with him to give him wine or other strong liquors.

In consequence of this treatment the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a degree of audacity that his father deemed him a singular character of bravery.

While he was very young, Mr Stanley was ordered to join his regiment in Spain, and took his son with him, and in that country he was a spectator of several engagements; but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceased after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an ensign's commission; but the young gentleman, habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of his commission, which he soon sold,

JOHN STANLEY

and then returned to England and abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life. At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boasted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern, saying he had come to make himself welcome, and would sit down at the table without further ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace, but when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and, drawing his sword, walk off while the company was in confusion. It was not always, however, that matters ended thus, for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

As he was returning from a gaming-house which he frequented in Covent Garden he met a Mr Bryan, of Newgate Street, and his sister, Mrs Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate Hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man and embraced the woman, on which a quarrel arose; but this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home. This he did, and spent the evening with them; and from this circumstance a fatal connection arose, as will appear in the sequel.

Stanley, having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs Maycock at the house of a relation in Red Lion Street, Holborn. In a short time, Mr Maycock removing into Southwark, the visits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connection, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow, and he was admitted to repeat his visits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow who had served his apprenticeship with the late Mr Maycock, and who was

NEWGATE CALENDAR

possessed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addresses to the young widow ; but she preferred a licentious life with Stanley to a more virtuous connection.

Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers spent their time at balls, plays and assemblies till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal with her favours to other persons. In the meantime she bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, afraid of the fatal consequences that might ensue ; and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape Coast Castle, in the service of the African Company.

The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the Company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark ; but he had been only a few days in that town when he was followed by Mrs Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching and then leaving her to starve ; and employing all the arts she was mistress of to divert him from his resolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the Company, and followed her to London with the rest.

Shocked with the news of this dishonourable action, the father took to his bed and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and to divert his chagrin he went to Flanders, where he stayed a considerable time, when he returned to England and lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

One night Mrs Maycock, having been to visit a gentleman, was returning through Chancery Lane, in company with another woman and Mr Hammond, of the Old Bailey, when Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women.

STEPHEN GARDENER

Hammond hereupon said the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs Maycock, now recognising Stanley, said: "What, Captain, is it you?" He asked her where she was going: she said to Mr Hammond's, in the Old Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet Street, Stanley desired his companion to go back and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward, Stanley struck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Having arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home; but this he refused, and Mrs Maycock going into the kitchen he pushed in after her, and, some words having passed between them, he stabbed her, so that she died in about an hour and a half.

The offender, being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, where some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices only, and the evidence against him being positive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death. He was executed at Tyburn, on 23rd of December, 1723.

STEPHEN GARDENER

Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of February, 1724, for House-breaking, after being warned that the Bellman would say his Verses over him

_____ malefactor was born in Moorfields, and after associating with blackguard boys in the streets was driven home through sheer hunger. He went to sea on a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. Being an idle and useless hand, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates that he grew heartily tired of a seafaring life; and on his return from the first voyage he promised the utmost obedience if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

This was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint he soon quitted his service and engaged with dissolute fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, etc., till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced as pickpocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at the Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and, notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horsepond. Soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious housebreakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as a partner; but he rejected their proposals till one night when he had lost all his money and most of his clothes at cards; then he went to his new acquaintances, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Gardener having now been for some time acquainted with a woman who kept a public-house in Fleet Lane, and who was possessed of some money, proposed to marry her, with the view of obtaining her property; and, the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet parsons. The money Gardener obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance, and not long afterwards they were apprehended on suspicion of felony and conducted to St Sepulchre's watch-house; however, the charge against them not being validated, it was necessary to dismiss them, but before they were set at liberty the constable said to Gardener: "Beware how you come here again, or this bellman will certainly say his verses over you"; for the bellman happened to be at that time in the watch-house.¹

Gardener was greatly affected when the constable told

¹ See Appendix No. 4.

STEPHEN GARDENER

him that the bellman would say his verses over him ; but the impression it made on his mind soon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

A short time after this adventure Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the "passing lay," which is an artifice frequently practised, and though the sharpers are often taken into custody, and their tricks exposed in the newspapers, yet there are repeatedly found people weak enough to submit to the imposition.

Our adventurers were very successful at different places, particularly at Bristol ; but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the observation of "honour among thieves" ; for Jones, after having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced clothes, and about a hundred guineas, gave no share of the booty to Gardener. This induced the latter to think of revenge, but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time and then proceeded on their journey ; but on the morning on which they set out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with the intention of murdering his companion when they should come to an unfrequented place. On their journey Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle with the intention of perpetrating the murder ; but, his resolution failing him, he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion.

A few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted ; and on this occasion Jones said : "Hark ye, Gardener, whither are you going?" "To London," said he. "Why, then," replied Jones, "you are going to be hanged."

Soon after his arrival in London he robbed a house in Addle Hill, but was not apprehended for it, and a short time after he broke open the house of Mrs Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds. In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin, and both the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

offenders, being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death ; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener resigned himself to his fate ; and before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other clothes, though the weather was intensely cold.

JOSEPH BLAKE *ALLAS* BLUESKIN

Made an Unsuccessful Attempt to kill Jonathan Wild by cutting his Throat. Executed in November, 1724, at Newgate

JOSEPH BLAKE, better known by his nickname of "Blueskin," from his dark countenance, always deserves to be remembered as one who studiously took the paths of infamy in order to become famous.

By birth he was a native of the City of London. His parents, being persons in tolerable circumstances, kept him six years at school, where he did not learn half so much from his master as he did evil from his schoolfellow, William Blewit, from whose lessons he copied so well that all his education signified nothing. He absolutely refused, when he came from school, to go to any employment, but, on the contrary, set up for a robber when he was scarcely seventeen ; and from that time to the day of his death was unsuccessful in all his undertakings, hardly ever committing the most trivial fact but he experienced for it either the humanity of the mob or of the keepers of Bridewell, out of which, or some other prison, he could hardly keep his feet for a month together.

He fell into the gang of Lock, Wilkinson, Carrick, Lincoln, and Daniel Carrol. Being out one night with this gang, they robbed one Mr Clark of eight shillings and a silver-hilted sword, just as candles were going to be lighted.

JOSEPH BLAKE *ALIAS* BLUESKIN

A woman, looking accidentally out of a window, perceived it, and cried out "Thieves!" Wilkinson fired a pistol at her, which (very luckily), upon her drawing in her head, grazed the window, and did no other mischief. Blake was also in the company of the same gang when they attacked Captain Langley at the corner of Hyde Park Road as he was going to the camp; but the Captain behaved himself so well, that notwithstanding they shot several times through and through his coat, yet they were not able to rob him. Not long after this Wilkinson, being apprehended, impeached a large number of persons, and with them Blake and Lock. Lock thereupon made a fuller discovery than the other before Justice Blackerby, in which information there was contained no less than seventy robberies, upon which he also was admitted a witness; and having named Wilkinson, Lincoln, Carrick and Carrol, with himself, to have been the five persons who murdered Peter Martain, the Chelsea pensioner, by the Park wall, Wilkinson thereupon was apprehended, tried and convicted, notwithstanding the information he had before given, which was thereby totally set aside.

Blake himself also became now an evidence against the rest of his companions, and discovered about a dozen robberies which they had committed. Amongst these there was a very remarkable one. Two gentlemen in hunting-caps were together in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, from whom they took two gold watches, rings, seals and other things to a considerable value; and Junk, *alias* Levee, laid his pistol down by the gentlemen all the while he searched them, yet they wanted either the courage or the presence of mind to seize it and prevent their losing things of so great value. Not long after this Oakey, Junk and this Blake stopped a single man with a link before him in Fig Lane, and he not surrendering so easily as they expected, Junk and Oakey beat him over the head with their pistols, and then left him wounded in a terrible condition, taking from him one guinea. A short time after this Junk, Oakey and Flood were apprehended and executed for robbing Colonel Cope and Mr Young of that very watch for which

NEWGATE CALENDAR

Carrick and Malony had been before executed, Joseph Blake being the evidence against them.

After this hanging work of his companions he thought himself not only entitled to liberty but reward. Therein, however, he was mightily mistaken, for, not having surrendered willingly and quietly, but being taken after long resistance and when he was much wounded, there did not seem to be the least foundation for this confident demand. He remained still a prisoner in the Wood Street Compter, obstinately refusing to be transported for seven years, till at last procuring two men to be bound for his good behaviour, he was carried before a worthy alderman of the City and there discharged. At which time somebody there present asking how long might be given him before they should see him again at the Old Bailey, a gentleman made answer, "In about three sessions," which time it seems he guessed very right; for the third sessions from thence Blake was indeed brought to the bar.

No sooner was he at liberty than he was employed at robbing; and having picked up Jack Sheppard for a companion, they went out together to search for prey in the fields. Near the halfway house to Hampstead they met with one Pargitar, pretty much in liquor, whom Blake immediately knocked down into the ditch, where he would inevitably have perished had not Jack Sheppard kept his head above the mud with great difficulty. For this fact, the next sessions after it happened, two brothers (Brightwells) in the Guards were tried, and if a number of men had not sworn them to have been on duty at the time the robbery was committed they would certainly have been convicted, the evidence of the prosecutor being direct and full. The elder Brightwell died in a week after he was released from his confinement, and so did not live to see his innocence fully cleared by the confession of Blake.

He behaved with great impudence at his trial, and when he found nothing would save him he took the advantage of Jonathan Wild's coming to speak with him to cut the said Wild's throat—a large gash from the ear beyond the

JOSEPH BLAKE *ALIAS* BLUESKIN

windpipe; of which wound Wild languished a long time. And happy had it been for him if Blake's wound had proved fatal, for then Jonathan would have escaped death by a more dishonourable wound in the throat than that of a penknife. But the number of his crimes and the spleen of his enemies procured him a worse fate. Whatever Wild might deserve of others, he seems to have merited better usage from this Blake; for while he continued a prisoner in the compter, Jonathan was at the expense of curing a wound he had received, allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week, and after his last misfortune promised him a good coffin, actually furnished him with money to support him in Newgate, and several good books if he had made use of them. But because he freely declared to "Blueskin" there was no hope of getting him transported, the murderous villain determined to take away his life, and was so far from showing any signs of remorse when he was brought up again to Newgate that he declared that if he had thought of it before, he would have provided such a knife as would have cut off his head.

At the time he received sentence there was a woman also condemned, and they being placed, as usual, in what is called the Bail Dock at the Old Bailey, Blake offered such rudeness to the woman that she cried out and alarmed the whole bench. All the time he lay under condemnation he appeared utterly thoughtless and insensible of his approaching fate. Though from the cutting of Wild's throat and some other barbarities of the same nature he acquired amongst the mob the character of a brave fellow, yet he was in himself but a mean-spirited, timorous man, and never exerted himself but through either fury or despair. He wept much at the chapel before he was to die; and though he drank deeply to drive away fear, yet at the place of execution he wept again, trembled, and showed all the signs of a timorous confusion—as well he might, who had lived wickedly, and trifled with his repentance to the grave. There was nothing in his person extraordinary: a dapper, well set-up fellow, of great strength

NEWGATE CALENDAR

and great cruelty ; equally detested by the sober part of the world for the audacious wickedness of his behaviour, and despised by his companions for the villainies he committed even against them. He was executed in the twenty-eighth year of his age, on the 11th of November, 1724.

END OF VOLUME II.

APPENDICES

No. 1

THE CAPTAIN OF THIEVES

THE following is an account of how the cutting of purses was performed by thieves and of the authority exercised by a captain of thieves :—

The women of those times wore their pockets more exposed than they do at present, and it was very common for the men to carry their money in a purse or bag tied about their middle, almost in the same manner as the women now (seventeenth century) tie their pockets, or as some public officers carry their purses to this day on solemn occasions, the use of fobs and breeches pockets not being then introduced, the reason of their invention being perhaps only to prevent the rogueries that were then committed. Now the art of these fellows consisted in cutting off those purses so as not to be perceived, for which purpose they haunted fairs, markets, churches, and other public places, that so they might take advantage of the throng. He who performed the operation had always another standing near him, to whom he immediately gave the purse, and whose business it was to make off as fast as he could, while the other stayed to brazen it out if he were suspected, clear himself, and prove his accuser a liar.

A captain of thieves is a sort of absolute lord over all those who put themselves in subjection to him. He has the privilege to examine all novices that are just entered, put them to trials of their skill, ask them questions relating to their calling, and finally to assign them such provinces in the commonwealth of thieves as he thinks most suitable to their genius, to which they are obliged to keep, upon forfeiture of their honour. He has always a reserve of the most experienced and active fellows, whom he sends upon any sudden and difficult enterprises, and who are always to be near his person. No man in the fraternity must forget his point of duty, or exceed the bounds of his commission, by meddling with another man's charge, or attempting things which he has been told are above his capacity. The usual time of probation is about three months, during which the young initiate is as constantly at his exercise before the captain as a trooper's horse that is not broke is at the riding-school: he must scale a wall, snatch off a periwig, steal a watch and do a hundred things of that kind.

When his abilities have been sufficiently proved, and the captain has pronounced what he is fit for, he is constantly to wait upon his honour once a week and give an account of his actions. At the same time he is to pay a dividend out of what he has got towards the captain's maintenance,

APPENDICES

who reprehends or praises him according as his negligence or vigilance deserves, and appoints his station for the ensuing week. An oath drawn up in the most sacred terms is exacted of every member for the security of the society.

There are punishments assigned for those who fail in any of the above-mentioned particulars. The first time, it is said, they are abridged of part of what they have taken; the second time of a whole week's benefit, and so on, to a deprivation sometimes of five or six months. But the most disgraceful penance is to be made a spy or follower to the rest for a certain time. These punishments have their desired effect, and the whole fraternity is kept in order, because if any member were troublesome the captain would deliver him up to the common law and see him fairly hanged.

No. 2

THE MAIDEN: ORIGIN OF THE GUILLOTINE

MR PENNANT gives the following account of the Maiden:—

“The Maiden seems to have been confined to the limits of the forest of Hardwicke, or the eighteen towns and hamlets within its precincts. The time when this custom took place is unknown; whether Earl Warren, lord of this forest, might have established it among the sanguinary laws then in use against the invaders of the hunting rights, or whether it might not take place after the woollen manufactures at Halifax began to gain strength, is uncertain. The last is very probable, for the wild country around the town was inhabited by a lawless set, whose depredations on the cloth-tenters might soon stifle the efforts of infant industry. For the protection of trade and for the greater terror of offenders by speedy execution this custom seems to have been established, so as at last to receive the force of law, which was that ‘If a felon be taken within the liberty of the forest of Hardwicke, with goods stolen out or within the said precincts, either hand-habend, back-berend or confessioned, to the value of thirtepenne halfpenny, he shall, after three market-days, within the town of Halifax, next after such his apprehension, and being condemned, be taken to the gibbet, and there have his head cut from his body.’

“The offender had always a fair trial, for as soon as he was taken he was brought to the lord's bailiff at Halifax; he was then exposed on the three markets, which here were held thrice in a week, placed in the stocks with the goods stolen on his back, or if the theft was of the cattle kind they were placed by him; and this was done both to strike terror into others and to produce new informations against him. The bailiff then summoned four freeholders of each town within the forest to form a jury. The felon and prosecutors were brought face to face, and the goods, the cow or horse, or whatsoever was

APPENDICES

stolen, produced. If he was found guilty he was remanded to prison, had a week's time allowed for preparation, and then was conveyed to the spot where his head was struck off by this machine. I should have promised that if the criminal, either after apprehension or on the way to execution, could escape out of the limits of the forest (part being close to the town), the bailiff had no further power over him; but if he should be caught within the precincts at any time after, he was immediately executed on his former sentence.

"This privilege was very freely used during the reign of Elizabeth; the records before that time were lost. Twenty-five suffered in her reign and at least twelve from 1623 to 1650; after which, I believe, the privilege was no more exerted.

"This machine of death is now destroyed, but I saw one of the same kind in a room under the Parliament House in Edinburgh, where it was introduced by the Regent Morton, who took a model of it as he passed through Halifax, and at length suffered by it himself. It is in form of a painter's easel and about ten feet high; at four feet from the bottom is a cross bar, on which the felon lays his head, which is kept down by another placed above. In the inner edges of the frame are grooves; in these is placed a sharp axe, with a vast weight of lead, supported at the very summit by a peg; to that peg is fastened a cord, which the executioner cutting, the axe falls, and does the affair effectually, without suffering the unhappy criminal to undergo a repetition of strokes, as has been the case in the common method. I must add that if the sufferer is condemned for stealing a horse or a cow, the string is tied to the beast, which, on being whipped, pulls out the peg and becomes the

Thus we find, adds a commentator at the time, that the guillotine of France is not an instrument of death of the invention of that country. During the anarchy caused by a corrupt Court and the oppression of the people this instrument, precisely on the model of the Maiden, was in mercy applied to the King and Queen, their nobles and the clergy, who it was calculated engrossed three-fourths of the wealth of their nation. We say in mercy, because it produces a death more instantaneous and consequently less painful than that inflicted on criminals in Britain. A short period of time has brought about wonderful revolutions and great changes in all European nations, save our own islands, and we sincerely hope *that a timely reform in our internal affairs* may render the return of the Maiden entirely unnecessary.

Beheading was a military punishment among the Romans, known by the name of *decollatio*. Among them the head was laid on a *cippus*, or block, placed in a pit dug for the purpose; in the army, without the *vallum*; in the city, without the walls, at a place near the *porta decumana*. Preparatory to the stroke the criminal was tied to a stake and whipped with rods. In the early ages the blow was given with an axe, but in after-times with a sword, which was thought the more reputable manner of dying. The execution was but clumsily performed in the first times, but afterwards they grew more expert, and took the head off clean with one circular stroke.

In England, beheading was the punishment of nobles, being reputed not to

APPENDICES

derogate from nobility, as hanging does. In France during the revolutionary government, the practice of beheading by means of an instrument called a *guillotine* (so denominated from the name of its inventor) was exceedingly general. It resembles a kind of instrument long since used for the same purpose in Scotland, and called a "Maiden."

It is universally known that at the execution of King Charles the First a man in a visor performed the office of executioner. This circumstance has given rise to a variety of conjectures and accounts, in some of which one William Walker is said to be the executioner, in others it is supposed to be a Richard Brandon, of whom a long account was published in an Exeter newspaper of 1784. But William Lilly, in his *History of my Life and Times*, has the following remarkable passage: "Many have curiously inquired who it was that cut off his [the king's] head: I have no permission to speak of such things; only thus much I say, he that did it is as valiant and resolute a man as lives, and one of a competent fortune." When examined before the Parliament of Charles II. he states that "The next Sunday but one after Charles the First was beheaded, Robert Spavin, secretary to Lieutenant-General Cromwell at that time, invited himself to dine with me, and brought Anthony Pierson and several others along with him to dinner. That their principal discourse all dinner-time was only who it was that beheaded the king. One said it was the common hangman; another, Hugh Peters; others also were nominated, but none concluded. Robert Spavin, so soon as dinner was done, took me by the hand and carried me to the south window: saith he: 'These are all mistaken; they have not named the man that did the fact; it was Lieutenant-Colonel Joice. I was in the room when he fitted himself for the work; stood behind him when he did it; when done, went in with him again. There is no man knows this but my master [viz. Cromwell], Commissary Ireton, and myself.' 'Doth not Mr Rushworth know it?' saith I. 'No, he doth not know it,' saith Spavin. The same thing Spavin hath often related to me when we were alone."

No. 3

ORIGIN OF THE GIBBET IN ENGLAND

THE gibbet was used in England for carrying into effect the final sentence of the law upon murderers, that their bodies might hang a dreadful warning to the passenger not to stray from the path of honesty; yet perhaps few have inquired into its origin.

The gibbet is of doubtful derivation. It is both an English word and a French word, implying the same meaning—"A post on which malefactors are exposed."

We find this punishment recorded in Holy Writ, Joshua viii. 28, 29:

"And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it an heap for ever, even a desolation

APPENDICES

unto this day. And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day."

Searching further back into ancient history we find from Martinus, the learned etymologist, that this mark of the grossest infamy which can be inflicted on a criminal was not unknown to the Greeks. It is most probable, however, that we had the mode of punishment of the gibbet from the French at so early a period as the thirteenth century, when it was used here, and known by that name.

In the year 1242, says the historian, Matthew of Paris, William de Marisco, a knight, was judicially condemned and ignominiously put to death. He was brought from the Tower to that penal machine vulgarly called the gibbet, and after he had breathed his last was hung on one of the hooks (*untorum*), and being taken down after he was grown stiff, was bowelled: his bowels were burnt, and his body being divided into four parts, the quarters were sent to four cities. This evidently had the intention of exhibiting a terrible spectacle to the people, just as hanging a dead body in irons was meant to do. But it varies much from gibbeting; the gibbet, in this case, serving only as a common gallows.

The same author, Matthew of Paris, in speaking of the execution of two men, says: "*Paratum est horrible patibulum Londini quod vulgus gibitem appellat.*"

One of these criminals, after he was dead, was hung upon a gibbet, and the other was gibbeted alive, to perish by pain and hunger. These cases come fully up to the point in hand, as the body of the first was put upon the gibbet when dead in order to be a permanent spectacle of terror; and the other was not to die, as probably being the most guilty, by the mere simple act of suspension, but a more lingering kind of death.

About the same period of which Paris gives a history the King of France ordered all clippers of the coin, *patibulis laqueatos, vento presentari*—that is, to be hanged and then exposed to the wind—which, though irons be not mentioned, appears to be the very thing the English did, and to have had the same intention.

The first gibbet used in England whereon to expose criminals after death by hanging was in the reign of King Henry III., A.D. 1236.

In some parts of the globe individuals worked themselves into a frenzy of fanaticism, and inflicted upon themselves a painful gibbeting, as though their torture would expiate their supposed sins. There is an account of the voluntary sacrifice of a widow of Malabar burning herself to ashes upon her husband's funeral pile.

This shocking spectacle was well authenticated by several officers in the service of the East India Company who witnessed this religious rite among the Gentoos. There were three voluntary victims. The first was attended by a numerous procession and preceded by music and dancers. According to the custom of Indian festivals they were adorned with flowers, clothed in their best apparel, and attended by their relations.

APPENDICES

They marched, or rather ran, round the apparatus several times, flowers being in the meantime strewed before them.

The engine of torture used upon this occasion was a stout upright post, thirty feet in height. At the bottom was a stage, and about halfway towards the top another, on which two priests, or rather executioners, were mounted with drawn sabres, in place of books of religion, in their hands. Across the top of the post, or pole, was another, of about half the length and circumference, strongly lashed thereto with ropes. At each extremity were hooks of iron, somewhat resembling but larger than those used by butchers in England to hang up their meat in the shambles.

The sufferer was hoisted up to the executing church-militants. They immediately proceeded to strip their prey of his robes, and then fixed the hooks into the fleshy part of his back, near the shoulder-blades. The ropes were affixed to these hooks and tied to the transverse beam. Behind him two smaller ropes depended from the beam, which received his great toes in separate loops. Over the penitent's head was suspended a kind of flat muslin canopy with a narrow flounce, just sufficient to shade his face from the sun, but not conceal him from the view.

Thus prepared he was slung into the air by means of ropes tied at the opposite end of the pole and swung round to give a full view to the surrounding crowd. The air was now rent with shouts of applause, almost to adoration. The trumpets sounded, the drums beat and patereroes fired. The transverse beam, turning upon a pivot, was slowly moved round over the heads of the multitude. Notwithstanding the torture which the victims must feel, they supported it, generally, with patient firmness. The writer of the account now quoted says he was an eyewitness to three persons submitting to this punishment on one afternoon.

"The first sufferer," continues the narrator, "was a young man about twenty-four years of age. He got upon the scaffold with affected indifference, but when launched into the air I could distinctly hear him send forth some agonising yells. Still he persevered, and described the circle three times; he held a fan in one hand and a bundle of cajans (leaves of the Palmira tree) in the other, which he continued waving with seeming composure until he made a signal and thereupon was let down. There was no difference in the mode of suspending the other two, excepting that one beat a small *taum taum* (great drum) the whole time, and that the second held a basket of flowers in one hand and scattered them with the other among the spectators, who eagerly caught them. Either from the various accompanying noises, or from the superior fortitude of the two latter, I could not distinguish any expression of pain. When let down, their backs were rubbed with turmeric, and they were received by their friends with the highest marks of veneration and joy. I was informed that these men were thenceforward esteemed the particular favourites of *Sewamee* (the Deity), and entitled to particular privileges. I was also present at this ceremony at Madras, near the Black Town."

APPENDICES

No. 4

THE NEWGATE BELLMAN

It was an ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bellman of the parish of St Sepulchre to go under Newgate and, ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses, as a piece of friendly advice to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death :—

“ All you that in the condemn'd hold do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you shall die.
Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near,
That you before the Almighty must appear.

Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
That you may not t'eternal flames be sent.
And when St Sepulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,
The Lord above have mercy on your souls ! ”

Past Twelve o' Clock.

The following extract from Stowe's *Survey of London*, p. 125 of the quarto edition printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to have been repeated by a clergyman instead of a bellman :—

“ Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant Taylor, of London,—gave to the parish church of St Sepulchres, the somme of 50l. That after the seuerall sessions of London, when the prisoners remain in the gaole, as condemned men to death, expecting execution on the morning following ; the clarke (that is, the parson) of the church should come in the night time, and likewise early in the morning, to the window of the prison where they lye, and there ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appointed for the purpose, he doth afterwards (in most Christian manner) put them in mind of their present condition, and ensuing execution, desiring them to be prepared therefor as they ought to be. When they are in the cart, and brought before the wall of the church, there he standeth ready with the same bell, and after certain toles rehearseth an appointed praier, desiring all the people there present to pray for them. The beadle also of Merchant Taylors Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that this is duely done.”

INDEX

- Adams, Dick**—thief, 235
Addison, Jack—highwayman, 214
Ansell, James (and Richard Parvin, Edward Elliot, Robert Kingshell, Henry Marshall, Edward Pink and John Pink)—murderers and deer-stealers, 306
Audrey, Roderick—thief, 246
Austin, Tom—murderer, 93

Balfour, Alexander—murderer, 161
Barber, John (and William Jones *alias* Goodwin)—highwaymen, 87
Bauf, Dick—cat burglar and highwayman, 157
Bellingham, John—bank-note forger, 114
Bew, William—highwayman, 3
Bird, Lieutenant Edward—murderer, 272
Bird, Jack—highwayman, 34
Blake, Joseph (*alias* Blueskin)—robber, 314
Blewit, Jack—highwayman and murderer, 226
Bonnet, Ned—highwayman, 233
Brian, John Herman—robber and incendiary, 194
Buckley, Tim—highwayman, 152
Burk, William—robber, 300
Butler, Mary—forger, 85

Chambers, Arthur—trickster, 184
Chance, Will—forger and house-breaker, 255
Channel, Mary—murderess, 148
Chislie, John—murderer, 1
Churchill, Deborah—murderess, 206
Clare, Zachary—highwayman, 257
Collet, Jack (*alias* Cole)—sacriligious burglar, 72

Cook, Thomas—murderer, 168
Cooke, Arundel (and John Woodburne)—maimers, 286
Cowland, John—murderer, 137
Cowper, Spencer (and John Marson, Ellis Stevens and William Rogers)—wrongly accused of murder, 108
Cox, Tom—highwayman, 70

Davis, William (the Golden Farmer)—highwayman, 28
Dramatti, John Peter—murderer, 166
Dromelius, Geraldus (and Michael and Catherine Van Berghen)—murderers, 127

Elby, William (*alias* Dunn)—armed burglar and murderer, 193
Elliot, Edward (and Richard Parvin, Robert Kingshell, Henry Marshall, Edward Pink, John Pink and James Ansell)—murderers and deer-stealers, 306
Evans, Captain Evan—highwayman, 208

Filewood, James (*alias* Vilet)—pickpocket, 270
Fletcher, Simon—pickpocket and captain of thieves, 84

Gardener, Stephen—housebreaker, 311
Gerrard, Tom—housebreaker, 218
Goodwin, Jack (*alias* Plump)—thief, 191
Gray, Tom—highwayman and incendiary, 230
Griffiths, George—thief, 131

INDEX

- Hall, Jack**—thief and footpad, 196
Halsey, Jacob—Quaker highwayman, 63
Hamilton, Colonel John—duellist, 224
Hamilton, John—gamester and murderer, 260
Harris, Anne—shoplifter, 205
Harrison, Henry—murderer, 79
Hartley, John (and Thomas Reeves)—footpads, 289
Harwood, Jocelin—murderer and highwayman, 82
Hawes, Nathaniel—highwayman, 283
Hawkins, John (and James Simpson)—highwaymen and mail robbers, 290
Hawkins, Moll—shoplifter, 171
Hawksworth, William—soldier-murderer, 303
Hinton, Edward—highwayman, 90
Holliday, John (alias Simpson)—church robber, 129
Hollyday, Will—captain of the Black Guards, 105
Horner, Nicholas—highwayman, 273
Houghton, Thomas (and Dr Francis Salisbury)—forgers, 103
Housden, Jane (and William Johnson)—murderers of a turnkey, 254
Hughes, Dick—housebreaker, 211
Hunter, Rev. Thomas—murderer, 134
Hutchins, Harvey—housebreaker, 172

Johnson, William (and Jane Housden)—murderers of a turnkey, 254
Johnston, Sir John—abductor of an heiress, 57
Jones, Moll—shoplifter, 75
Jones, Tom—highwayman, 155
Jones, William, alias Goodwin (and John Barber)—highwaymen, 87
Joyce, William—swindler, 100

Kelsey, Tom—thief and murderer, 53
Kidd, Captain John—pirate, 139
Kingshell, Robert (and Richard Parvin, Edward Elliot, Henry Marshall, Edward Pink, John Pink and James Ansell)—murderers and deer-stealers, 306

Larkin, John—forger, 124
Leonard, James—highwayman, 89
Low, Dick—sneak thief, 199
Lowther, Will—murderer, 245

Maccartney—housebreaker and murderer, 249
Macqueer, Will—highwayman, 67
Marshall, Henry (and Richard Parvin, Edward Elliot, Robert Kingshell, Edward Pink, John Pink and James Ansell)—murderers and deer-stealers, 306
Marson, John (and Spencer Cowper, Ellis Stevens and William Rogers)—wrongly accused of murder, 108
Maw, Will—thief and coiner, 221
Morell, William—fraudulent impersonator, 117
Morgan, Davy—murderer, 222

O'Bryan, Patrick—highwayman and murderer, 4
Ogden, Will (and Tom Reynolds)—housebreakers and highwaymen, 251
Old Mobb—highwayman, 38
Ovet, Jack—highwayman, 202

Paleotti, Marquis de—murderer, 265
Parvin, Richard (and Edward Elliot, Robert Kingshell, Henry Marshall, Edward Pink, John Pink and James Ansell)—murderers and deer-stealers, 306
Philips, Thomas (and William Spiggot)—robbers, 294

INDEX

- Pink, Edward and John (and Richard Parvin, Edward Elliot, Robert Kingshell, Henry Marshall, and James Ansell)**—murderers and deer-stealers, 306
Price, John—thief, common hangman and murderer, 265
Quin, James—actor who killed an actor, 262
Raby, Moll—thief, 169
Reeves, Thomas (and John Hartley)—footpads, 289
Reynolds, Tom (and Will Ogden)—housebreakers and highwaymen, 251
Roche, Philip—pirate and murderer, 304
Rogers, William (and Spencer Cowper, John Marson and Ellis Stevens)—wrongly accused of murder, 108
Rowland, Tom—disguised highwayman, 113
Rumbold, Thomas—cheat, 8
Salisbury, Dr Francis (and Thomas Houghton)—forgers, 103
Saunders, Jacob—murderer, 296
Seager, George—burglar, 98
Sharp, Tom—thief, coiner and trickster, 175
Shaw, William—wrongly convicted of murder, 280
Shorter, John—Newgate conspirator, 107
Shrimpton, Jack—highwayman and murderer, 242
Simpson, James (and John Hawkins)—highwaymen and mail robbers, 290
Smith, John—highwayman, 179
Smith, John—robber, 181
Spencer, Barbara—coiner, 279
Spiggot, William (and Thomas Phillips)—robbers, 294
Stanley, John—murderer, 308
Stevens, Ellis (and Spencer Cowper, John Marson and William Rogers)—wrongly accused of murder, 108
Strodtman, Herman—murderer, 143
Taylor, Tom—pickpocket and house-breaker, 77
Thornhill, Richard—duellist, 216
Tripp, Grace—accomplice to a murderer, 213
Van Berghen, Michael and Catherine (his Wife), (and Geraldus Dromelius)—murderers, 127
Waters, Tom—highwayman, 73
Whitney, James—highwayman, 95
Wicks, Ned—highwayman, 240
Withers, Jack—sacrilegious thief and murderer, 163
Withrington, Jack—gamester, thief and highwayman, 59
Woodburne, John (and Arundel Cooke)—maimers, 286

